empathetically and effectively. He was recognized for his service in 2019 and was awarded the Unsung Hero Award from Inroads to Opportunities and the Larry Barker Spirit of State Use Award from the State Use Programs Association.

Over the course of his career, Mr. Nesse served as the Executive Director of the Edison Sheltered Workshop, the President and CEO of the Center for Vocational Rehabilitation, and most recently as the Vice President of Government Affairs for ACCSES New Jersey.

Beyond his advocacy, Mr. Nesse was a caring husband, father, and grandfather, finding great joy in spending time with his family. He was also a man of deep faith, and on Sundays, you could find him with a guitar in hand leading the worship team at his local congregation.

Floyd Nesse passed away on October 19, 2021. His legacy will live on in his family and in the lives of all he served. I am grateful for all Mr. Nesse did to ensure we live in more inclusive communities. He will be dearly missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed one vote on December 1, 2021.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 390.

HONORING SYDNEY NOEL BURKS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and ambitious young lady, Sydney Noel Burks.

Sydney is a Sophomore at Hinds Community College-Utica Campus majoring in Chemistry/Pre-Pharmacy. She was a May 2020 graduate of Park Place Christian Academy (PPCA), where she graduated as a Highest Honor graduate with a 4.0 GPA. During her time at PPCA, she was inducted into the National Honor Society and served as Secretary of the Beta Club.

Sydney also believes in giving back to the community and helping those who are less fortunate. Her service and leadership have not only given her experiences she will cherish for a lifetime but has also enabled her to become an advocate for others and to promote issues that are of importance. Some of the community service events she was involved in during high school and continue to be involved includes the following:

We Will Go—Organized community closet and assisted the neighbors with bagging groceries and clothing and picked up trash and debris around the city;

Stewpot—Assisted with packing and serving lunches;

Feed the Need—Worked as a team member to pack and bag food to later be shipped to those who are food insecure;

Feed the Hungry—Talked to, prayed with, and assisted with serving lunch to those who were hungry in Poindexter Park;

Operation Christmas Child (Shoebox Processing Center in Texas)—Worked with a team to pack shoeboxes and ensure that the items in the shoeboxes met the safety requirements to be shipped to the children who needed them; and

The Little Lighthouse—Worked with special needs children by assisting teachers with primary lessons, feeding the children lunch, and supervising recess. Also assisted with creating 'Thank You' cards for their 5K race.

During Sydney's tenure at Hinds Community College-Utica Campus, she has maintained a cumulative 4.0 grade point average, and has been named a President's Scholar. She is currently a member of the Yearbook and Robotics Clubs. Sydney is a STEM student and is a member of the Louis Stokes Mississippi Alliance for Minority Participation. In addition, Sydney is a Mississippi INBRE (Idea Network of Biomedical Research Excellence) Scholar. Mississippi IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) is a network of colleges and universities, designed to build a biomedical research infrastructure in Mississippi. The mission is to reach out to Mississippians in order to improve health throughout the state and to engage talented researchers and students in biomedical research projects that will increase the state's research competitiveness as well as impact the health of citizens of Mississippi.

As an INBRE scholar, she had the opportunity to be an intern with My Brother's Keeper. She presented the outcomes of her work entitled, ''Potential Mistrust of the COVID–19 Vaccine Among African-Americans in Mississippi,'' during the Mississippi Health Disparities Annual Conference 2021 in Biloxi, MS. Also, she is the Mississippi-Louisiana Vice-President of Phi Theta Kappa International College Honor Society. Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) recognizes the academic achievement of college students and provides opportunities for its members to grow as scholars and leaders.

Recently, Sydney was named as one of the Historically Black College and University Scholars.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Sydney Noel Burks for the outstanding work and accomplishments she has made thus far.

HONORING OUTSTANDING AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENT NORTH CAROLINA SENATOR PAUL NEWTON

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor North Carolina Senator Paul Newton for his recognition as Outstanding Ambassador of the Year by the Cabarrus County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Outstanding Ambassador of the Year is presented by the Cabarrus County Convention and Visitors Bureau to an individual who represents Cabarrus County by providing exceptional service to visitors. Working in coordination with the North Carolina Travel Industry Association, Senator Newton's leadership effectuated the inclusion of a specific provision in House Bill 196 that makes tourism development authorities in North Carolina eligible for the federal Payroll Protection Program (PPP). This quick and impactful response to the economic struggles brought on by the COVID–19 Pandemic has effectively reduced layoffs and allowed businesses in the hospitality and tourism industries to remain economically stable so they may continue providing services to visitors and all members of their communities.

I would like to extend my most heartfelt appreciation to Senator Newton for his exemplary service to the tourism and hospitality industries in Cabarrus County and North Carolina as a whole. It is an honor and a privilege to serve and represent the people of Cabarrus County by his side. I know I speak for our entire community in wishing him continued success and happiness.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Senator Paul Newton as the Cabarrus County Convention and Visitors Bureau Outstanding Ambassador of the Year Award recipient and wish him well as he continues to address the needs of his constituency.

HONORING DARIN JOHNS

HON. AUGUST PFLUGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Mr. PFLUGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer sympathy and prayer to the community of Andrews, as well as the family of Darin Johns, who was tragically killed in a bus crash while traveling with the Andrews High School Band to a Mustangs playoff game two weeks ago.

Darin Johns was the beloved band director for Andrews High School. In the weeks since the accident, we have seen an outpouring of testimonies about Mr. Johns from former students, friends, colleagues, and other band directors across the entire state of Texas.

As I learn more about the life that Mr. Johns led, I am continually encouraged by the quality of service that he gave to his community and the quantity of people whose lives he touched.

Mr. Johns was an active member of the Andrews community who dedicated his life to his faith, loved his wife Karen and family and friends deeply, and invested in his natural talent and deep love of music. He was a gifted musician who could play almost any instrument he touched. In his free time, he played in a Christian band and directed the church praise band as an active member of the Calvary Baptist Church.

Mr. Johns deepest passion was encouraging the younger generations. For over 30 years, he taught others to love music as a high school band director. Over his impressive tenure, Mr. Johns led three different high school marching bands to the State Marching Contest. He lent all his time and energy to building up the dreams and talents of those around him.

Andrews ISD and our communities across West Texas are mourning the loss of Mr. Johns.

Camille and I are sending our support and prayers to Andrews and Mr. Johns' family.