to remember the qualities that made them champions.

Those qualities of hard-work, commitment, and determination will continue to serve them well in the future as they transition from leaders on the field to leaders in their families, communities, state, and nation.

Congratulations to the Bay Springs Bulldogs. They earned this victory.

HONORING LESLIE WILLIAMS

HON. DEBORAH K. ROSS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Ms. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of my constituent Leslie Williams. Leslie recently achieved a wonderful milestone in her career in real estate by being named the 2022 President of the Raleigh Association of Realtors.

Leslie has been a resident of North Carolina for 20 years, and has over 30 years of sales, marketing, customer service, and management experience. She also has a Masters degree in Business Administration and has attained several real estate certifications throughout her career.

In addition to her professional achievements, Leslie is dedicated to volunteering, mentorship, and ensuring homeownership for all. I am so proud to represent a constituent who is committed to supporting these important efforts in our community, and I look forward to hearing more about her work in the future and collaborate to improve our community.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PREPARE + PROSPER

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the staff and volunteers of Prepare + Prosper as they celebrate their 50th year of service to Minnesota taxpayers. Prepare + Prosper is a nonprofit organization working to build financial health and expand access to quality tax and financial services for low- and moderate-income individuals and families. Through their efforts they have helped countless Minnesotans navigate the tax system, and in 2019 alone, they helped over 12,000 taxpayers file returns free of charge.

Prepare + Prosper was founded in 1971 by a small group of economic justice-oriented accountants who began to provide free accounting services to small business owners. Soon after, they also started to provide free individual tax preparation for low- to moderate-income taxpayers. Over the years they have grown into an organization with just over 20 year-round staff members and more than 600 volunteers, and have expanded the reach of their free tax filing services and broadened their offerings to include financial coaching and access to financial products.

Two of their current program offerings are Money Mentors and Financial Access in Reach (FAIR) Financial Solution. Money Mentors provides one-on-one mentoring with a financial coach and a network of peers to help participants create a plan for their financial future and ultimately reach their financial goals. Prepare + Prosper partnered with Sunrise Banks to reimagine banking with their FAIR Financial Solution program. This initiative gives low-income families access to checking and savings accounts as well as a small-loan program at low cost, while also providing an alternative to check-cashing operators and payday lenders.

In the Twin Cities, more than 194,000 households are excluded from the financial mainstream according to the FDIC, meaning that they may have unpredictable income, lack of access to checking and savings accounts or to affordable credit or loans. On top of this, many households experienced financial stress brought on by the COVID–19 pandemic or needed help to navigate the system and receive their Economic Impact Payments or Child Tax Credits.

The staff and volunteers at Prepare + Prosper are an extremely valuable asset to the community as they help Minnesotans overcome these barriers that still exist when seeking greater economic opportunity. And as part of their effort to bridge these gaps, Prepare + Prosper engages in advocacy work to advance policies and practices that will directly benefit people with low- to moderate-incomes when it comes to tax credits, consumer protection and asset-building. They also partner with other community organizations to spread the word about their services and to reach those who may be eligible for benefits like the Child Tax Credit which helps lift families out of poverty.

Prepare + Prosper is led today by Executive Director Suyapa Miranda who joined the organization in the spring of 2021 and will lead them into the next 50 years of service with a focus on closing the economic wealth gap in Minnesota by concentrating on developing and implementing programs that serve communities most impacted by systemic economic injustice.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Prepare + Prosper as they celebrate 50 years of upholding their mission of building financial well-being through offering free tax preparation and financial services, and by changing systems to create economic opportunity for all.

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER'S EASTMAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Mr. MORELLE. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music on the occasion of its centennial celebration.

In September 1921, the Eastman School of Music opened its doors with an inaugural class of 104 students. Through the efforts of its founder, George Eastman of Eastman Kodak Company, longtime director Howard Hanson, and University of Rochester President Rush Rhees, the school became a leader in American music education dedicated to the highest levels of artistry and scholarship.

The following year, the school's largest performance venue, the iconic Eastman Theatre, was opened. Inscribed on its facade is Mr. Eastman's vision, ''For the enrichment of community life.'' In the years since, the theatre has hosted some of the world's greatest musicians, including composers Aaron Copland, Igor Stravinsky and John Williams; jazz musicians Duke Ellington, Wynton Marsalis, and Eastman alumnus Ron Carter; and classical luminaries Itzhak Perlman, Yo-Yo Ma, and Eastman alumna, Renée Fleming. It is the main performing venue of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and hosts many community concerts, lectures, and events. It is also the venue and location of choice for many national and international festivals including The CGI Rochester International Jazz Festival, KeyBank Rochester Fringe Festival, and more.

The Eastman Community Music School, also founded in 1921, is continuing to honor Mr. Eastman's dream, offering music lessons, ensembles, classes, and workshops to students of all ages and financial means each year. Eastman also provides tuition-free lessons and music instruction to Rochester City School District students, many of whom go on to study at Eastman as well as at other top music schools.

Eastman has distinguished itself as an innovator in music and culture, developing the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in the 1950s and becoming the first music school to formally offer courses in entrepreneurial thinking and leadership studies through its Institute for Music Leadership. Eastman's Sibley Music Library is the largest collegiate music library in North America with nearly 750,000 items, including many manuscripts, first-editions, and vast resources for performance and research. Eastman Performing Arts Medicine is a recent pioneering partnership between Eastman and the University of Rochester Medical Center to connect world-class performing arts with medicine.

Today, the Eastman School of Music enrolls nearly 900 undergraduate and graduate students from almost every state and many countries around the world, led by 95 faculty members. Its alumni include many Pulitzer, Tony, Grammy, and Emmy Award winners.

Over the last one hundred years, the Eastman School of Music's premier programs and magnificent facilities have become a powerful cultural force not only in Rochester, New York, but across the United States and around the world. It is an honor to represent this fine institution and to support efforts over the years to strengthen this extraordinary school for many generations to come.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music on its centennial. Its service and contributions to Rochester, New York State, and arts and culture around the world will always be celebrated.