Florida State University College of Music. She was also an active member of the Friends of the Library. Because of her support for libraries, in her honor, the Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library named one of their branches, the ''Jan Kaminis Platt Regional Library''.

Additionally, Jan was the recipient of the University of South Florida's Women in Leadership and Philanthropy Lifetime Achievement Award, recipient of the Hillsborough County Bar Association's Liberty Bell Award, and she was inducted into the Hillsborough County's Women's Hall of Fame in 2012.

I was honored to serve alongside Jan during my time on Hillsborough County's Board of County Commission. She was an inspiration to me and many others throughout her career in elected office. A passionate leader, Jan's love of the environment led her to devote herself to protect and preserve our community's natural resources.

Jan Platt inspired me to be a better public servant. She was honest, ethical and loved our Tampa community—from the waters of Tampa Bay to the pristine, wooded areas she worked to protect. Throughout her career serving our community, even in times of great change in local governing bodies, Jan was steadfast in her leadership and it was a great honor to learn from her and know her. I hope her commitment to ethics in government will inspire another generation of passionate leaders to serve.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of our Tampa Bay community, I am proud to honor the life of Jan Platt and pay tribute to her outstanding contributions to the Tampa community. Jan is survived by her husband Bill, son Kevin, his wife Michele and granddaughter Emma. She leaves an indelible legacy for future generations to enjoy our bay and its waters the same way she did.

TRIBUTE TO JENNIE BARANCZYK

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jennie Baranczyk, head coach of Drake University's women's basketball team, for being named a 2017 Women of Influence honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

For 18 years, the Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of women who have made a significant difference in business, civic and philanthropic endeavours throughout the Greater Des Moines Area.

Jennie is no stranger to success. During her time as a member of the women's basketball team at the University of Iowa she was named First Team All-Big Ten in 2003. Her outstanding athletics accomplishments early on in her career have translated into her new role as the head coach of Drake University's women's basketball team. In her first year as head coach, Jennie was given a team that finished with a record of 11–20 the prior year. Her unyielding commitment to excellence and hard work have turned the fortunes of the basketball program around, finishing last season 28–5, champions of the Missouri Valley Conference, and making an appearance in the NCAA Basketball Tournament.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent leaders like Jennie in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her team, her community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Jennie on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing Jennie a long and successful career.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY STAFF SERGEANT (SSG) BRIAN LEE FREEMAN

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army Staff Sergeant (SSG) Brian Lee Freeman who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our great nation on November 7, 2005, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. SSG Freeman was killed when a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated near his dismounted patrol in Baghdad. Also killed were First Lieutenant (1LT) Justin S. Smith, Specialist (SPC) Robert C. Pope, II, and Private First Class (PFC) Marion A. Reyes. SSG Freeman was assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Carson, Colorado.

SSG Freeman, a Caledonia, Mississippi native, enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1997. Pat Freeman, SSG Freeman's mother, said her son was married to his wife, Leah for 14 months. According to the Associated Press, Mrs. Freeman said prayers from family and friends helped them through a difficult time. ''The Army has been very kind to us and helped us through this bad time in our lives,'' she said. ''We know Brian is in a better place and we will see him again someday. We call him our angel now.''

A scholarship was established in his memory of SSG Freeman at Caledonia High School. Twelve scholarships have been awarded over the years. Bill Lawrence, the former mayor of Caledonia, recently said that SSG Freeman's late father, Glen Freeman, worked hard to build support for the development of the Veterans Memorial, located at the Ola J. Pickett Park. The family also donated an American flag and flagpole to the facility. The memorial includes two battle crosses—one for SSG Freeman and one for Staff Sergeant (SSG) Jeffrey Dayton, a Caledonia High School graduate who was killed in Iraq in 2004.

At the time of his son's death, Mr. Freeman told the Associated Press that SSG Freeman meant everything to the family. ''This boy was a hero. Our son was everything to us. People don't realize what it is to lose a child,'' he stated. Mrs. Freeman said SSG Freeman demonstrated bravery and courage as a soldier. She said her son saved the life of their unit's medic who he talked out of riding with them in the Humvee on the day of the incident. SSG Freeman told the medic that he may be needed if something happened to them.

The funeral for SSG Freeman was held at the Lowndes Funeral Home in Columbus. SSG Freeman was laid to rest at Rowan Cemetery in Caledonia, Mississippi.

SSG Freeman is survived by his mother, Pat Freeman; his wife, Leah; her son, Bradley Thomas; his sister, Lisa Nichols; his uncle, Rick Merryman; his aunt, Karen Merryman; his brother-in-law, Ronnie Christian; and his sister-in-law, Linda Christian.

SSG Freeman's service and sacrifice to protect America will not be forgotten.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MRS. VELORIS ''JEAN'' WILLIAMS-EDWARDS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to a great woman and sincere friend, Veloris ''Jean'' Williams-Edwards. Jean passed away on October 29, 2017. Funeral services will be held at Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia on Saturday, November 11, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.

A native of Wooten's Crossroads, North Carolina, Jean was born to George T. and Lacy Ann (Mott) Williams, as the fourth of eight children. A product of the Greene County School System, she graduated from Greene County Training School in 1959. She went on to attend North Carolina Agriculture and Technical State University (NC A&T) where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Special Education. After earning her Bachelor's degree, she earned a Masters of Arts in Teaching from the University of Maryland.

In 1964, she married the love of her life, Leon Edwards, and they built a life that was based on the love of God, the love of each other, the love of family and the love of people. They knew that the love of these could lead one to a close and fulfilling relationship with God because they are an embodiment of His greatest commandments: to love Him with all your ''heart, mind and soul'' and to ''love thy neighbor as thyself.''

Jean's passion for education persisted during her professional career as a teacher, a vocational development specialist and a transition coordinator, where she taught her students to be of service to others. After her career in education, she went on launch a dress shop, work as a promoter for various events, and work alongside her husband at Edwards Trucking Company (which evolved in to a productive transportation company), before becoming a staff assistant in the office of former Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich. The treasured relationships she developed and the exciting daily operations of the Office of the Speaker made her experience on Capitol Hill beneficial.

Maya Angelou once said, ''A great soul serves everyone all the time. A great soul never dies.'' Jean was undoubtedly great because of her devotion to her work, and the compassion she showed for her friends and loved ones.

On a personal note, Jean became a trusted friend on Capitol Hill. I was truly blessed by