

The Greater Denton Arts Council traces its roots back to 1967, when the Denton Chamber of Commerce formed a Fine Arts and Cultural Affairs Committee to demonstrate its support of the arts. In 1969, this committee became an independent entity and renamed itself the Greater Denton Arts Council (GDAC), becoming the umbrella organization for area arts, cultural and educational entities.

To address the need for a permanent arts facility in Denton, an ad hoc committee began planning in 1973 to reach that goal. A lease was finally negotiated by the GDAC in 1981 to convert several existing industrial buildings located at the southwest corner of East Hickory St. and South Bell Ave. Renovations began in 1984 to convert the warehouse located at the southwest corner of the intersection into what would become the Center for the Visual Arts (CVA). The CVA opened to the public with its first art exhibition in the Meadows Gallery. In 2014, the CVA was subsequently renamed the Patterson–Appleton Arts Center.

The GDAC also renovated the Campus Theatre building in the 1990s, converting the 1,200 seat movie house into a 300 seat live theatre and performance venue. In doing so, the GDAC preserved the unique late-deco design features of the structure and established a suitable local venue to support performing organizations.

In the decades since its inception, GDAC venues have provided local Denton County audiences with high-quality permanent and temporary exhibitions for local and national artists. Additionally, the GDAC has served as an umbrella organization for collaborative efforts with area universities, the Denton Independent School District and the City of Denton, including programs such as the “Get Started with the Arts” program to introduce Denton elementary students to classical music, visual arts, professional theater, ballet and opera.

GDAC has been an integral part of the annual Congressional Art Contest since 2003, serving as host of the annual High School Art Contest for the 26th District of Texas. Each year the GDAC has staged the exhibition and hosted the recognition reception for hundreds of North Texas students, their parents, and teachers following this professionally-judged contest.

As the GDAC meets for the presentation of the Community Arts Recognition Award (CARA) to this year’s recipients, I extend my deepest appreciation on behalf of the constituents of the 26th District of Texas. The commitments of those recognized this year, along with the past and future honorees, are well-deserved for their role in support of educational and cultural mission of GDAC and the artistic and cultural presence that makes Denton, Texas such a unique place to call home.

HONORING DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF
THE NATIONAL RECONNAIS-
SANCE OFFICE, MAJOR GENERAL
STEPHEN DENKER

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2018

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Deputy Director of the National Re-

connaissance Office, Major General Stephen Denker.

General Denker is retiring after a long and impressive career in the Air Force. Though his Air Force assignments have taken him around the world, three of those assignments have been in Colorado and his family has called Centennial home for the past three years. General Denker looks forward to returning “home” to Colorado and spending more time with his wife Corinne and sons Ben and Jake. Jake will graduate from Grandview High School this spring. Like his father, Gen. Denker’s older son Ben, is serving in the Air Force and has accepted the demanding challenge of training to be a Pararescueman and their motto “That Others May Live”.

General Denker was born in Illinois and moved to Wisconsin in 6th grade. He earned his commission through the Air Force Reserve Officer’s Training Corps and a Bachelor’s degree in Aeronautical Engineering from the University of Minnesota—Twin Cities Institute of Technology as well as a Masters of System Management from the University of Southern California.

During his career General Denker has served in a variety of acquisition, operational, command and staff assignments in the United States and overseas. A true space professional, nearly all of his 32 year career has been dedicated to acquiring space capabilities and leading other space professionals in support of the Intelligence Community and Department of Defense. General Denker held multiple commands at the squadron, group and wing level and was responsible for the development of leaders across the Air Force as the Commandant of Air Command and Staff College and the Vice Commander of the Spaatz Center.

As the Deputy Director of the National Reconnaissance Office, General Denker has been critical to coordinating national space capabilities like the National Space Defense Center. As a member of the Armed Services Committee, I have appreciated both his expertise and candor in his appearance before the Strategic Forces subcommittee on space issues.

While I’ll miss seeing General Denker before the committee, I look forward to seeing him back home in Colorado. On behalf of my House colleagues, I take this opportunity to thank Major General Denker for his service to the nation and wish him well in retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF REVEREND
GOZIE E. PENSON

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2018

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincerest congratulations and birthday wishes to a dedicated man of God and community servant, Reverend Gozie E. Penson, who is celebrating his 100th birthday at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 26, 2018 at the Holiday Inn located at 197 East Broad Street in Athens, Georgia.

Reverend Gozie E. Penson was born on May 31, 1918 in Fayette County, Georgia. He is a product of the Peach County School System and a member of Henry Hunt High

School’s graduating class. After graduating from high school, he attended Morehouse College and earned a Bachelor’s of Divinity degree from Howard University’s School of Religion.

Rev. Penson received a calling to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to migrants in Pocomoke City, Maryland and Belle Glade, Florida through the National Council of Churches. He later served with the Presbyterian Church in Tuskegee and Montgomery, Alabama as well as the Urban League in Washington, D.C.

Throughout his life, Rev. Penson was an active member of several civic organizations where he poured his time and energy including Tuskegee’s Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Committee for Good Government, Oenology Club, and the Tuskegee Civic Association.

Acts 20:35 says, “I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” Truly, Reverend Penson has abided by this scripture, understanding his calling and purpose to serve God’s people and his community.

Reverend Penson has accomplished many things in his life, but none of these would have been possible without the grace of God and the love and support of his late wife, Claudine, and their children, Merryll, Elvin, and Nari.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife, Vivian, and the more than 730,000 residents of Georgia’s Second Congressional District, in recognizing Reverend Gozie E. Penson for his selfless service to God, his church, and humankind. We extend our best wishes to him as he, his family, and friends celebrate his 100th birthday.

TRIBUTE TO THE JONES FAMILY,
TRIPLE J ENTERPRISES, INC.

**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO
SABLAN**

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2018

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, Robert H. Jones, his wife Margaret A. Jones, and their family are known in the Marianas and throughout the Western Pacific for their successes in business. They are also known for the vision and heart with which they have used their personal successes for the benefit of the communities where they live and do business.

Born in North Carolina, Robert (“Bob”) Jones moved to Guam in 1957 to work for the company his brother Kenneth had started—Jones & Guerrero, Incorporated. Bob would work alongside Ken for the next 24 years, rising to be Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the company.

In 1984, though, he struck out on his own and established Triple J Enterprises on Guam, a reference to the Jones’ three children—Julie, Jeff and Jay. Starting with a Subaru distributorship he bought from Ken the company did well, later venturing up two years later to Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands.

From the inception, it was a family business: Margaret did the buying, handled advertising and public relations, and was the company treasurer. Sister Georgia J. Stafford also lent

a hand when needed; and the children helped out cleaning cars and working in the parts and service departments.

At first, Triple J distributed Subaru automobiles, Hino heavy trucks and buses, and Bluebird school buses. As business grew they added the Ford, Mazda, Lincoln, Hyundai, Isuzu, Suzuki, Volvo, Honda, Acura, Kia and Mitsubishi brands to the company's automobile business portfolio. And when the children returned from college the business began expanding beyond automobiles and beyond Guam and the Northern Marianas.

In 1987, in alignment with Bob's visionary persona, Triple J began working in wholesale foods and retail grocery with a business on Ebye in the Marshall Islands. Further expansion years later added nearby Majuro, where the company today continues to operate similar businesses. In 1998, the wholesale business would expand west to Palau along with a bakery, convenience store, and Shell service station.

Triple J would further diversify into the restaurant business beginning in the mid-1990s with the purchase of an Outback Steakhouse franchise on Guam and, later, Tony Roma's, Capricciosa, Bubba Gump Shrimp Company, and Great Harvest Bakery franchises on Saipan. Scheduled to open in 2019, a Red Lobster franchise restaurant now under development on Guam will be a new addition to the restaurant group.

In 1994, Triple J had a hand in negotiating the arrival of K-Mart on Guam. That store, bucking a national trend of closures, remains to this day one of the most successful K-Marts anywhere.

Into the new millennium, by 2005 Triple J had grown to be the fourth largest business in Micronesia, as ranked by the Guam Business Magazine. The Guam Chamber of Commerce named the company Business Laureate of the Year and inducted Triple J into the Guam Business Hall of Fame—the youngest corporation to receive the honor.

And they just kept growing. Triple J acquired Hertz Rent-a-Car rights and became exclusive distributor in all of Micronesia for Solahart—an Australian solar water heater company.

Capitalizing on another opportunity, Triple J developed a first-of-its-kind affordable housing development on Saipan, subsidized by the U.S. Treasury's Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program. Sandy Beach Homes—a \$27 million, 60-unit project—was completed in late 2011; and a second, affordable housing project—Saipan Comfort Homes—quickly followed with another 40 units.

Sharing in the value of philanthropy, the Jones family and Triple J make efforts to enhance the quality of life of those in need. On Guam, Triple J partners with the American Cancer Society Guam Chapter annually to support their signature funding event, Relay for Life, raising as much as \$40,000 in one year alone. In the Northern Marianas, the company regularly contributes to the Red Cross Walk-a-Thon, the Marianas March Against Cancer, Make-A-Wish Foundation, and numerous other charitable programs raising money for relief efforts and cancer research. They have also been the official car sponsor of the Miss Marianas Pageant and the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association.

This larger concern for the welfare of the whole community came into further relief when

the Marianas was hit by Typhoon Soudelor in 2015. The worst typhoon in decades, Soudelor carried sustained winds exceeding 100 miles per hour. In the wake of the devastation, which left most people on Saipan without power for a month, Bob Jones donated thousands of dollars in food to help the Salvation Army set up a hot meals program in Kagman, one of the hardest-hit villages. For his selflessness and support, when the community was in dire need, the Rotary Club of Saipan awarded Bob Jones its Citizen of the Year award in 2016.

"Customers first" is Triple J's simple mission statement and yet, it holds a more complex meaning displayed in the actions behind their successes. That people-centric view serves as a model to other businesses in the communities they serve.

Through all these years of dynamic growth, the importance of family remains central to the successes of Bob and Margaret. Son Jeffery is the president and chief operating officer of the company. Son Jay is senior vice president with a focus on automotive operations. And, while daughter Julie spends much of her time in a professional counseling practice, her husband, Dan Murrell, serves as senior vice president in charge of real estate, food, and restaurant operations. Mother Margaret remains company treasurer. Bob is chairman and CEO. Growing into the third generation, five of their eleven grandchildren have begun working for the family business. Today, the Triple J group employs over 900 employees across the Micronesia region, many of whom have been with the business for twenty plus years.

Please join me in thanking and congratulating true citizens of the Marianas, Bob and Margaret Jones and all their family for over 60 years of service and success in the Marianas and throughout Micronesia.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. DEBORAH
LELIAERT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2018

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Deborah Leliaert, Vice President for University Relations and Planning, as she retires from her position at the University of North Texas.

Ms. Leliaert joined UNT in 1992 as director of news while attending UNT's Toulouse Graduate School. In 1996, she advanced to associate vice president for marketing and communication and UNT System associate vice chancellor for communications and marketing. She held this title until 2001 when the UNT System Board of Regents approved the creation of associate vice president for university relations. Ms. Leliaert was promoted into this new role to oversee the university's communications and marketing as well as visitor and public relations. She continued in this capacity as associate vice chancellor for communications and marketing for the UNT System.

In a career spanning more than a quarter century of UNT's history, Ms. Leliaert witnessed a tremendous period of growth, challenge, and celebration, serving six presidents and three chancellors as the institution's chief internal and external spokesperson through

much of this time. This window of UNT's history included its acceptance as a full member of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities; countless new programs and building projects; new campuses; recognition of UNT as an emerging research institution and the development of ground-breaking relationships for the University through research efforts and public partnerships such as exists with UNT's current relationship with the Dallas Cowboys.

Managing much of the marketing and communications involved in supporting UNT's brand management and institutional reputation, Ms. Leliaert also supported UNT's ambitious student recruitment and retention objectives for a campus that has grown by almost 20 percent in only the second half of her tenure with UNT. Her efforts to bolster UNT in the media intersected with the rapid rise of social media and modern transformation of the media landscape.

Ms. Leliaert's talents, particularly her eloquence and skill to respond in times of crisis, will be sorely missed by the UNT community. As a proud UNT alumnus, I thank her for her contributions as a long-serving member of UNT's staff, and I wish her much happiness as she commences her retirement after a significant and successful career.

DARLYNN BLEA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Darlynn Blea for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Darlynn Blea received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Darlynn Blea is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Darlynn Blea for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

CELEBRATING THE FORTIETH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE ARC OF
SCHUYLER

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2018

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the fortieth anniversary of The Arc of Schuyler.

The Arc of Schuyler is a private, not for profit organization providing support to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including autism, and their families. The Arc of Schuyler is a Chapter of the Arc of New York,