

Black History Month must continue to play a pivotal role in helping all of us remember, preserve, and honor the accomplishments and contributions of the Black leaders of America. The annual celebration serves as a poignant reminder of how much Black history has been lost, forgotten, or in some cases, deliberately erased from the record. The nation's commemoration of Black history is not for the Black community alone, but for our collective and cohesive recognition of American history as a whole.

#### RECOGNIZING MICHAEL SABLJAK

##### HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2016

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Michael Sabljak, who is intern in my office as part of the Uni-Capitol Washington Program. The Uni-Capitol Washington Program (UCWIP) has paired some of the brightest Australian students with various congressional offices for almost two decades, and I am happy to be a host again this year.

Michael comes from the University of Melbourne where he is studying for his Juris Doctor degree. Over the past couple of months, I have found him to be outstanding in his duties and continually going above and beyond the call of duty. He has attended committee hearings, assisted with constituent correspondence, and assisted me, as well as my staff, with research. He was asked to travel down to Alabama during the latter part of February, and Michael and I travelled over 700 miles across the Fourth Congressional District. His Australian accent has garnered the friendly attention of many of my constituents on tours and over the phone. Michael's commitment, hard work, and presence have been an asset to the office and he will be sorely missed by all.

The program has been in force for 17 years thanks to the vision of Eric Federer, its director and founder. The students who are selected come from a variety of academic disciplines, but all have a common interest: promoting the U.S.-Australia relationship. These student placements are enhanced by the formation of genuine friendships and the exchange of views and ideas between the Australian interns and their respective offices. We are grateful for these friendships, and it is our hope that they strengthen the diplomatic ties of our great countries.

I would like to also thank Eric Federer for the opportunity to host Michael over the past several weeks through the program. To date, over 180 interns have come through his program, representing 10 different universities over the program's lifetime. It enhances opportunities for the individuals who come, and enlightens those who they come to. After the internship, many receive jobs on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. or go to work with Federal or various State Parliaments in Australia. Other interns have gone on to work in the Australian Embassy or The World Bank. Simply put, this program selects incredibly talented individuals who are a pleasure to host and work with. It was an honor to have Michael in our office over the past couple of months, and I wish him the very best in the fu-

ture. Michael, thank you again for your hard work and dedication.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF RUTH IRENE ANTHONY

##### HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2016

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Ruth Irene Anthony, who passed away peacefully at the age of ninety on Sunday, February 14th, 2016, at her residence surrounded by her loving family in Fort Myers, Florida.

Ruth was born in Warren, Ohio on Dec. 9th, 1925, to Daniel and Olive Webb McCormick.

Ruth married Lee Andrew Anthony on January 3rd, 1945. They resided most of their lives in Niles, in northeast Ohio where they raised their four children. Ruth and Lee became residents of Fort Myers in 1989.

Ruth is survived by her beloved husband of 71 years; their son George and three daughters, Sandra, Kathy, and Ruth along with 15 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and 14 great-great-grandchildren.

Ruth will be greatly missed by her loving family, friends, and neighbors, not only in Ohio but in her home of Florida as well.

#### HONORING CLAUDETTE COLVIN

##### HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2016

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, this month we take time to commemorate the innumerable contributions that African Americans have—and continue to make—to our Nation. Today, I would like to rise and honor a resident of my district who is a pioneer and trailblazer for the Civil Rights Movement—Ms. Claudette Colvin—for her many years of advocacy and impact that she's had throughout the United States.

Ms. Colvin was born on September 5, 1939 in Birmingham, Alabama to C.P. Austin and Mary Jane Austin (Gadson). She is the oldest of eight sisters. During her early childhood her adopted parents, Q.P. and Mary Ann Colvin lived in the rural community of Pine Level, Alabama. Ms. Colvin attended the Springhill Baptist Elementary School but later she moved to Montgomery and lived in an area called King Hill. She attended Booker T. Washington School from 1949 to 1956. While she didn't finish her senior year, she later received her G.E.D. and attended the Alabama State Teachers College in Montgomery for one year.

Ms. Colvin is one of the unsung heroes of the Civil Rights Movement. At the age of fifteen, she played a critical role in desegregating the buses in Montgomery, Alabama. Many people don't know that nine months before Rosa Parks was arrested for her act of courage in favor of equal treatment, Ms. Colvin was arrested on March 2, 1955 for a similar act of peaceful resistance. She subsequently became one of the four plaintiffs in *Browder v. Gayle*. The plaintiffs sought equal rights in Montgomery's busing system, and to

have the racially segregated seating policies declared unconstitutional. Represented by famed attorney Fred D. Gray, the case went all the way to the Supreme Court, which declared in favor of Ms. Colvin and her co-plaintiffs. It was a jubilant day in the history of the city of Montgomery, and an important victory in the Civil Rights Movement.

Many people don't know that Ms. Colvin subsequently relocated to my district in the Bronx, and has been a New Yorker for more than 50 years. She worked for more than 30 years at a Catholic Nursing Home as a nursing assistant. She is the mother of two boys, and she has six adorable grandchildren. She has reaped the fruits of her labor through them.

Ms. Colvin's bravery that day in 1955, and in the subsequent months and years as the case moved through the federal court system, has not gone unnoticed. Ms. Colvin's name started surfacing during Black History Month as early as 1979. The Birmingham News did a feature story in 1980. New York Governor Mario M. Cuomo awarded her with the MLK, Jr. Medal of Freedom in 1990. The Selma Times Journal featured her in 1991, The National Voting Rights Museum and Institute added a picture display of Ms. Colvin in 1994. She was featured in the cover story of USA Today Newspaper on November 25, 1995, the Montgomery Advertiser in 1996 and the Washington Post on April 12, 1990. She has been mentioned in several books such as "Freedom's Children" by Ellen Levine, "Parting the Waters" by Taylor Bunch, "Bus Ride to Justice" by Fred D. Gray, "The Montgomery Bus Boycott and the Women Who Started It", and the memoirs of JoAnn Gibson Robinson, to name a few.

I am proud to add to that recognition today. Ms. Colvin has been a pillar of the Bronx for so long, and her story is one that all Bronxites, and Americans, should know.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Ms. Claudette Colvin, a civil rights pioneer, for her legacy and devotion to fighting against injustice.

#### TRIBUTE TO DONALD AND MARILYN HILYARD

##### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Donald and Marilyn Hilyard of Cumberland, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary. They were married in 1950.

Donald and Marilyn's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, Donald, Jr., Sheryl, Kathy, Duane, and Sara, their grandchildren and their great-grandchildren, truly embodies Iowa values. It is because of Iowans like them that I'm proud to represent our great state.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 65th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.