

what we stand for: justice, truth and the value of a single human being."

COMMEMORATING ARIZONA NATIVE AMERICAN RIGHT TO VOTE DAY

**HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2008*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor our Native American communities, 22 federally recognized Arizona tribal nations, representing more than 300,000 community members.

On June 2, 1924, the United States Congress passed the Indian Citizenship Act which guaranteed certain citizenship rights to Native Americans, however in Arizona and other states that did not guarantee their right to vote.

Yet, as early as 1863, before citizenship was granted, Pima and Maricopa warriors were serving in the United States Army protecting settlers in the Arizona territory.

Additionally, while Arizona Native Americans were not considered citizens of the United States before World War I, more than 8,000 Native Americans from Arizona served our country in the United States military during World War I.

In 1928, Peter Porter, a Pima from the Gila River Indian Community, courageously filed the initial lawsuit to challenge the denial of Native Americans' right to vote. His efforts were denied by the Arizona Supreme Court. The Court argued that Native Americans were under federal guardianship.

In 1940, this distinguished body passed the Nationality Act of 1940, reaffirming citizenship of Native Americans, inspiring more than 25,000 Native Americans to serve our country in the United States military. Yet, they were still being denied the right to vote in Arizona.

In 1947, two courageous Arizonans, Frank Harrison and Harry Austin, filed suit to overturn the 1928 Arizona Supreme Court decision which denied Native Americans the right to vote. The acts of these men, both members of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, a community that I am honored to serve and represent in the United States Congress, won the landmark case. On July 15, 1948, the 1928 court ruling was overturned and Arizona's Native Americans confirmed their right to vote.

Tuesday, July 15, 2008, is Arizona Native American Right to Vote Day. It is on this day that we celebrate the 60th anniversary of this pivotal moment in the recognition of the rights of our Native American citizens. Their patriotic actions set an example for all who see injustice and fight to overcome it, and I am proud to call the people of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation my constituents.

It is with a great deal of pride that I rise today to honor our Arizona Native American community. It is also with great resolve that I reaffirm my commitment to our Native people, honor their sovereignty and urge the United States Congress to honor all commitments to our Native American Tribal Nations.

TRIBUTE TO MR. FRANCIS A. LEONE, SR.

**HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2008*

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Francis A. Leone, Sr., a former resident of my congressional district in Upstate New York, and his remarkable record of service as a World War II and Korean war veteran.

It is always a pleasure to recognize the service and sacrifices made by our military veterans, and Mr. Leone is no exception. In 1940, at the age of 19, Mr. Leone enlisted as a private in the Army National Guard. He was assigned to Company M 10th Infantry 27th Division. Stationed for basic and advanced infantry training in Fort McClellan, Alabama, he quickly moved up the ranks and was promoted to corporal. In 1942, his unit was dispatched to the Pacific Theatre of World War II. Throughout the next 3 years, Mr. Leone saw combat in Eneiwetok, Saipan, and Okinawa. During this period he was promoted to the rank of staff sergeant, where he was honorably discharged at the end of World War II.

Mr. Leone demonstrated his deep patriotism again in 1946, when he reenlisted in the New York Army Guard Truck Company. There he held the rank of first sergeant and was assigned as chief of small arms repair. In January 1950, he was appointed warrant officer junior grade, as a small arms and ordnance supply officer and joined the 132nd Ordnance Company stationed at Fort Pickett, Virginia. Later that year his unit was recalled to active Federal service for the Korean war. In May 1952, Mr. Leone and his unit were transferred to Germany where he served with the 93rd Light Aviation Maintenance Company. He was promoted to the rank of chief warrant officer.

Mr. Leone served the remainder of the war and following years in various assignments within maintenance. On May 30, 1981, at the age of 60, he was honorably discharged.

During Mr. Leone's time of service he received 17 awards and medals including the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation, and a Combat Infantry Badge, among others. However, his time in the military had a cost. During World War II, Mr. Leone spent 5 long years without seeing his family and loved ones, 3 of those years in combat.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Leone's dedication to this Nation and its citizens is to be commended. His service should be an inspiration to us all. Thank you, Mr. Leone, for your hard work and tremendous personal sacrifices for our Nation.

CONGRATULATING NEIL SLATER, CHAIRMAN OF THE JAZZ STUDIES DIVISION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS, ON AN OUTSTANDING CAREER

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2008*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding career of

Neil Slater, chairman of the Jazz Studies Division at the University of North Texas and nationally recognized jazz composer. Mr. Slater has been an integral part of the UNT School of Music for 27 years and plans to retire in August.

Mr. Slater created the jazz masters program at the University of North Texas, and has been instrumental in making UNT one of our nation's outstanding colleges for jazz composition and performance. In addition to his role as chairman of the jazz department, Mr. Slater also leads the "One O'Clock Lab Band," a jazz ensemble named after its traditional practice time. This Band has performed and recorded across the world, occasionally participating alongside jazz greats as Freddie Hubbard, Joe Henderson, and Ron Carter.

Slater was nominated for a Grammy award in 1993, and he received a 1995 National Endowment for the Arts fellowship grant. He has composed over 60 pieces for jazz ensembles, in addition to writing pieces for symphony, mixed chamber groups, a cappella chorus, and theater. In recognition of his reputation as a jazz expert, the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers has bestowed its "Standard Award" upon Slater each year since 1987. Prior to educating musicians at UNT, Mr. Slater founded the Jazz Studies program at the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut.

I commend Neil Slater for his outstanding career as an educator and composer. As an alumnus of the University of North Texas, I am especially proud of the work he has done to make the University a leader in jazz education. I am honored to represent Neil Slater and the University of North Texas in the 26th District of Texas.

TRIBUTE TO CATHERINE M. "KITTY" LAFALCE

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2008*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Ms. Catherine M. "Kitty" (Stasio) LaFalce, proud mother of our former colleague, Congressman John J. LaFalce.

Born in Buffalo in 1914, Mrs. LaFalce the youngest of a brood of 14 children, and was as devoted as Western New Yorker as we have ever seen. She will be dearly missed by her many family members who will hold her memory with them always.

Mrs. LaFalce, who passed away last week at the age of 94, was a wonderful wife to the late Dominic E. LaFalce, and was the beloved mother of two children: John and Lorraine LaFalce Kenny; was grandmother to four grandchildren: Lauren, Christine, Allison, and Martin; and great-grandmother to four: Austin, Rachel, Colton, and Autumn. Her life was a blessing to her friends, family, and community. Survived also by her dear sister, Rita Chiavaroli and many dozens of family members and good friends, Mrs. LaFalce's memory will be one of a strong woman with tremendous faith, and her memory will endure for many years to come.

Madam Speaker, I hope that you will join with me in expressing to our former colleague Mr. LaFalce and to the entire LaFalce family

the most sincere condolences of the House upon the passing of Catherine M. "Kitty" LaFalce.

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SUNSET MEMORIAL

**HON. TRENT FRANKS**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2008*

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I stand once again before this House with yet another Sunset Memorial.

It is July 15, 2008 in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand. That's just today, Mr. Speaker. That's more than the number of innocent lives lost on September 11 in this country, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,958 days since the tragedy called *Roe v. Wade* was first handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of its own children. Some of them, Madam Speaker, cried and screamed as they died, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over the vocal cords instead of air, we couldn't hear them.

All of them had at least four things in common. First, they were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone, and each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each one of their mothers, whether she realizes it or not, will never be quite the

same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever. Yet even in the glare of such tragedy, this generation still clings to a blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims, those yet unborn.

Madam Speaker, perhaps it's time for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves of why we are really all here. Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government." The phrase in the 14th Amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says, "No State shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law." Mr. Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is the clarion declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their Creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core, self-evident truth.

It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. Madam Speaker, it is who we are.

And yet today another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that foundational commitment. We have failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died today without the protection we should have given them.

So Madam Speaker, let me conclude this Sunset Memorial in the hope that perhaps someone new who heard it tonight will finally embrace the truth that abortion really does kill little babies; that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express; and that 12,958 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough; and that it is time that we stood up together again, and remembered that we are the same America that rejected human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust; and we are still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their unborn babies than abortion on demand.

Madam Speaker, as we consider the plight of unborn America tonight, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are also numbered and that all too soon each one of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we finally hear the cries of innocent unborn children. May that be the day when we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect these, the least of our tiny, little American brothers and sisters from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is July 15, 2008, 12,958 days since *Roe versus Wade* first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children; this in the land of the free and the home of the brave.