

Many of Marc's brothers in arms have commented on what a fine soldier he was and how he always held a positive attitude—even in the toughest of conditions.

Marc was a soldier to his country, a friend to many, but most of all, he was dedicated to his family. Marc's memory will carry on in the hearts and souls of his proud parents, Jerry Whisenant and Elizabeth Cook, and his beloved sisters, Michelle and Monica.

My colleagues, please join me in recognizing the life and service to our Nation of Marc Whisenant. We are forever grateful as a Nation for Marc's service and sacrifice, and my deepest condolences are extended to his parents, family and friends.

RECOGNIZING TENDAJI W. GANGES AND THE OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY INITIATIVES

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, on October 28, the Office of Educational Opportunity Initiatives at the University of Michigan-Flint celebrated its 15th year.

The Office of Educational Opportunity Initiatives was established in 1995 as part of Student Support Services. Its Mission statement is: The mission of EOI is to foster changes in institutional services and climate enhancing the ability of the University of Michigan-Flint to identify, recruit, serve and graduate students of diverse backgrounds with a particular emphasis on students from under-represented groups including non-traditional, educationally and economically disadvantaged, and those from urban and rural areas where college access and completion rates are significantly below the national average.

The Office operates 5 pre-college programs, 5 college programs and a diversity unit. Over the past 15 years the Office has expanded and now serves over 2,000 students annually.

Mr. Tendaji W. Ganges serves as the Executive Director of the Office of Educational Opportunity Initiatives. A product of the "Upward Bound" program implemented by the Higher Education Act of 1965, Mr. Ganges credits early college exposure to his success. He works tirelessly to enhance the access, impact and achievement of underrepresented groups in higher education. Mr. Ganges is an active participant in over 30 local and regional organizations. He is deeply committed to creating a gateway to higher education for all.

Madam Speaker, it gives me great honor to recognize the Office of Educational Opportunity Initiatives and Mr. Tendaji W. Ganges for their work with the educationally and economically disadvantaged. Mr. Ganges and his staff are deeply committed to turning the dream of higher education into reality for thousands of students. I congratulate them on 15 years of successful work and hope they continue assisting students for many, many years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF HARRIS AND JOSEPHINE SMITH

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a very special occasion today, the 50th wedding anniversary of Harris and Josephine Smith.

Harris was born July 12, 1941, and Josephine was born March 14, 1943, both in Ohatchee, Alabama. They first met at Ohatchee High School when he was in the 8th grade and she was in 6th grade.

On December 9, 1960, they were married in Ohatchee.

The couple raised one son, Robert Smith. Mr. Smith worked as an engineer with the Alabama Department of Transportation for 37 years. Mrs. Smith was a Business Education Teacher in the Calhoun County Schools for 30 years. Both are active in their church with Harris serving as a Deacon and Josephine playing the piano.

The Smiths are proud grandparents of Courtney Smith and Cassidy Smith.

On December 3rd, an anniversary celebration and dinner party will be held at Hill Crest Baptist Church in Anniston, Alabama with over 100 friends and family members.

I salute this lovely couple on their 50th year of their life together and join their family in honoring them on this special occasion.

HONORING WORLD WAR II VETERAN ALBERT BROWN

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Albert Brown, a World War II veteran and Bataan Death March survivor who, after celebrating his 105th birthday on October 26, is reported to be the oldest living veteran of World War II.

Albert Brown was born in North Platte, Nebraska, in 1905. After his father was killed in a railroad explosion, Albert's family moved to Council Bluffs, Iowa, where he was a four-letter athlete in high school as well as a member of the ROTC. Albert went to Creighton University where he again excelled in athletics, continued his ROTC training and received a degree in dentistry.

In the late 1930's, as the world was preparing for war and Albert Brown was raising his family and building his dental practice, he received the call to report for active military duty. After training recruits at different army bases in the U.S., Albert shipped off to the Philippines in 1941, just before the attack on Pearl Harbor. He was with the force of nearly 70,000 Allied troops that surrendered to the Japanese in Bataan and he became part of the infamous Bataan Death March.

One of Albert's personal recollections of the Death March was when he faltered and wound up at the back of the line of prisoners. A Japanese soldier bayoneted him in the buttocks

and ordered him to speed up. After this, and witnessing what happened to others who could not keep the pace, Albert said he never got near the end of the line again.

After surviving the Death March, Albert was put on one of the ships bound for POW internment on mainland Japan. While in transport, the prisoners were again deprived of nutrition, water and medical treatment. Albert survived the transport and would spend the remainder of the war as a prisoner of war. During this time, in addition to withstanding bitter cold and lack of nutrition, Albert described routine beatings at the hands of his captors. Albert was once struck with the butt of a rifle, causing fractures in his neck and back. Medical treatment was not an option, so Albert was forced to heal on his own until he was physically able to resume labor.

After the Japanese surrender, Albert came home to the U.S. and spent two years in a hospital where doctors treated an assortment of medical ailments resulting from his years in captivity. On discharge, one of the doctors told him to go home and enjoy himself because he would surely never see 50. At 105, Albert Brown, who now makes his home in Pinckneyville, Illinois, not only proved that doctor wrong but stands as a remarkable example of indomitable human spirit and survival under the most dire of circumstances.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in an expression of appreciation to Mr. Albert Brown for his dedication and tremendous sacrifice in service to his country and to wish him the very best in the future.

IN HONOR OF THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF OHIO CITIZEN ACTION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 35th Anniversary of Ohio Citizen Action, a non-profit, grassroots, non-partisan, citizen action organization whose main focus is protection of our environment.

Founded in 1975, Ohio Citizen Action has 80,000 members of all ages and backgrounds. Ohio Citizen Action inspires action and involvement through door-to-door and phone banking campaigns that communicate news and information to communities, and empower and organize citizens on a wide range of issues and projects with a focus on making our world a better place.

From organizing against companies that violate environmental laws, to implementing the "Good Neighbor Campaign" that utilizes elements of community organizing, Ohio Citizen Action's true grassroots activism continues to inform, empower, strengthen and protect our entire community.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of the members and leaders, past and present, of Ohio Citizen Action as they celebrate their 35th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER RYAN P.
BONAMINIO

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a hero from my congressional district, Ryan P. Bonaminio, a Riverside Police Officer and Army veteran. Today I ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember this incredible man who died in the line of duty while serving and protecting his community.

On Sunday, November 7, 2010, Ryan was shot after pursuing a driver of a stolen vehicle, and who was also suspected of a hit-and-run in downtown Riverside. Bonaminio became the first City of Riverside police officer to die in the line of duty in ten years. He was two weeks shy of his 28th birthday.

Officer Ryan Bonaminio was born in Riverside, California on November 25, 1982. He is survived by his parents, Joseph and Geraldine Bonaminio, along with his brother Christopher and sister Nicole. After graduating from Ramona High School in 2000 he joined the U.S. Army. He served with the 314th Military Police and served in Kuwait City, Baghdad, Mosul and Umm Qasr in southern Iraq. He also served in the 282nd Base Support Battalion in Hohenfels, Germany. After his honorable discharge from the Army, Ryan returned to Riverside and joined the Riverside Police Department on July 7, 2006, and graduated from the San Bernardino County Sheriffs Academy on December 21, 2006.

Bonaminio served both in the military and in the police force with honor and distinction, and was praised by his peers and supervisors on many occasions. For his outstanding service he had been awarded several medals, including the Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Reserve Mobilization Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Army Reserve Overseas Training Ribbon, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, and earned his Expert Qualification Badge-9mm pistol.

Friends and family of Officer Bonaminio describe his constant smile and generous heart. His actions on November 7th demonstrate that he was a brave young man who was unwavering in his dedication to protect the community. It is a sad irony to think that Ryan survived overseas fighting for our country on foreign soil, only to come home and be fatally wounded protecting his home community.

The day the Bonaminio family learned of their son and brother's death was probably the hardest day they have ever faced and our thoughts, prayers go out to them. They have our deepest gratitude for their sacrifice and Ryan's service to our nation. There are no words that can relieve their pain and what words we can offer only just begin to convey our deep respect and highest appreciation.

The dangers our police officers face every day often go unnoticed and without remark. Officer Bonaminio's death is a stark reminder of the very real threats that police officers face on a daily basis protecting us and our communities. We will never know what Officer Bonaminio's future would have been but our world is certainly less bright without him in it. We all share in the loss of such a promising,

courageous and truly remarkable young man. The goodness Officer Bonaminio brought to this world and the sacrifice he has made, will never be forgotten.

RITZVILLE'S NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD DEPOT CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor Philip Ritz—founder of Ritzville, Washington—and to congratulate Ritzville's Northern Pacific Railroad Depot on its centennial anniversary.

More than 100 years ago, Philip Ritz proposed establishing a great national highway between Lake Superior and the Puget Sound. Philip testified before Congress that the route would be beneficial for transportation of troops, munitions of war, mail and freight. As a result, the Northern Pacific Railroad and Ritzville's Northern Pacific Depot became instrumental in transporting crops, promoting settlers, and creating a community in Ritzville.

Even before the construction of the railroad, in the late 18th century, the Walla Walla valley was known for harvesting over one million bushels of grain, and some of the finest quality peaches, apples, pears, plums, cherries, grapes, and sweet potatoes. These crops, after the railroad was completed, were then transported into national and international markets. With these new markets, Ritzville rapidly became the largest and heaviest grain shipping railroad station in the world.

During this industrial and agricultural revolution, many families took advantage of the thousands of acres lying unclaimed. Densely populated cities dissipated as families moved towards the great Northern Pacific expanse. Combined with timber and lumber now being more accessible by railroad, these settlers were able to build new homes at inexpensive prices.

With the settlers came more vibrant communities. Within the Ritzville community, Ritzville's Northern Pacific Railroad Depot served as the town center. The depot agent was in charge of issuing marriage licenses and serving as the notary. Often times, important events were held in the waiting room such as polling during elections, social activities, and church services. The Depot quickly became the most important building in the town.

Today, Ritzville's Northern Pacific Railroad Depot serves as an important reminder of the role the railroad once played in farming, school, business, and town development in Ritzville, WA. Thanks to Philip Ritz, the depot was the focal point for all rail-related trade for more than 60 years. My fellow colleagues, please join me honoring Philip Ritz and congratulating Ritzville's Northern Pacific Railroad Depot on 100 years of excellent service.

HONORING FORMER WEST VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEMBER BEATRICE "JACKIE" WITHROW

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2010

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, Jackie Withrow was an angel for the ages. She was Florence Nightingale, Susan B. Anthony and Eleanor Roosevelt all rolled into one.

If the Almighty had to pick a day to open Heaven's Gates for Jackie, none could be mean more meaningful than Veteran's Day for no one cared more or worked harder for our veterans. One estimate credited Jackie with 27,500 hours of service to our veterans.

I am sure that number would pale in comparison to all she really did over her lifetime of dedication to our veterans, taking them to church services on Sundays and planning new ways to serve them at all hours.

Many people blaze trails, and Jackie accomplished that but made sure others were able to follow her.

Jackie was always known for breaking new ceilings for women. She cared about that, of course. But I think she and the women who supported her and followed in her footsteps were proudest of the issues on which they could command attention in their day, like health care. Health care was on Jackie's radar screen from the beginning—for our miners, our children, and those needing mental health services.

Senator Bill Wootton led the charge to make sure we would forever be reminded of her trailblazing leadership by appropriately naming a hospital for her.

Bill spoke of "Mercy" and "Justice" to describe Jackie's contributions to us. To those we must surely add, "Commitment" and "Dedication."

Her public service never wavered. Although she served in our state's legislature for a generation, her longest public service was as a good citizen and dependable neighbor.

Long out of office, Jackie continued opening doors of opportunity and opening the eyes of the rest of us. Always with a warm heart and determined will, Jackie Withrow changed our world for the better.

Jackie's lasting legacy to each of us was her fierce loyalty to what she believed in the most—the "least" of us, as Christ taught. And, we recall the loyalty of Ruth in the Old Testament as we celebrate Jackie's loyalty to those who needed her hand and hope the most:

"Do not press me to leave you
or to turn back from following you!
Where you go, I will go;
Where you lodge, I will lodge;
Your people shall be my people and your God
my God.

Where you die, I will die
There I will be buried.
May the Lord do thus and so to me
And more as well
If even death parts me from you!"

Next to my family, Jackie was my earliest and strongest supporter. I will celebrate Jackie's life the rest of my days. I know countless others will never be far from her firm hand of friendship, her warm smile of compassion, and that ever present twinkle in her eye of figuring out how she was going to help.