

home to resume his career in professional fire fighting. The city of Conroe, and all of Montgomery County were shocked when such a bright light of a young life was snuffed out in a tragic motorcycle accident June 6. Nathan's legacy of service and dedication to his dreams will stay with our community for years to come.

The Central Montgomery County Fire-Rescue Station 171 issued this statement after learning of the loss of Raulz: "Today our department suffered a great loss. Firefighter Nathan Raulz was killed in an automobile accident on Stidham Road. This young man won our hearts almost three years ago when he joined our department as a junior firefighter. Immediately he stood out as a stellar newcomer, and grew into an amazing young man and firefighter. The dedication and promise he showed earned him the title Junior Firefighter of The Year two years in a row. We will truly miss our "Ragoo"! We would like to send our deepest condolences to the family and loved ones of Nathan. You will be in our thoughts and prayers."

Today we honor the life of Nathan Raulz, we pray for his family, and we remember his dedication to others and hope it will challenge us all to live each day to the fullest.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF VINCENT WILLIAMS

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with the heaviest of hearts that I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Vincent Williams. Though he was 85 years old and lived a full and happy life, to all us who knew him, his sudden passing this week came much too soon.

Vinnie was a fixture at 59 Elm Street—the building where my District Office is located. Sitting next to his shoeshine stand in the first floor lobby, he always had a kind word and a contagious smile for any passerby. Vinnie was one of those people who always brightened the days of others. He had a kind and generous nature and he loved seeing people every day—always ready for a conversation. If he saw that you were a little down, he would do what he could to make you smile. He was the last of the shoeshine men in New Haven and he was a beloved member of our building's community.

Born in North Carolina, one of Vinnie's first jobs was as a shoeshine. A local barber offered him the position and it came naturally to him. He later joined the United States Navy and served our country with honor and integrity during World War II. It was after his service that he arrived in New Haven where he took up work at the Winchester firearms factory. After five years at Winchester Vinnie took a job with the U.S. Postal Service where he worked until his retirement. However, retirement did not suit Vinnie well—he did not like sitting at home. So he went back to where he began—a shoeshine stand—setting up shop at the 59 Elm Street building.

My staff and I will always carry fond memories of Vinnie. Almost every afternoon, Vinnie would close up shop and take a walk around

the building stopping in each office to wish everyone a good afternoon. I am not sure how many people knew about Vinnie's sweet-tooth, but he had one. My staff always made sure the small candy dish at our front desk had something in it—because the few times it did not, Vinnie was the first one to let us know. He also loved the word jumbles in the daily paper and worked them out every day. Every once in a while, however, he would get stumped. There is one member of my staff that he would always ask for help. After memorizing the letters, he would come upstairs, poke his head in her office, repeat the letters and give her a minute to come up with a suggestion. Even if the others he asked were stumped as well, he would work at it until he figured it out—and then would let everyone he had asked know the answer as well.

On behalf of myself and my staff, I extend my deepest sympathies to his six children, Ulysses, Cynthia, Gail, Michael, Latanga, and Vincent, Jr., as well as his family and friends. I want them to know how many lives he touched and the impact he had on others. Vinnie was a remarkable human being. His absence leaves an emptiness in our hearts that will never be quite filled. He will be deeply missed by all of those fortunate enough to have known him.

A SALUTE TO THE LIFE OF DR. GARDNER CALVIN TAYLOR

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Dr. Gardner Calvin Taylor on the occasion of his 94th birthday. Dr. Taylor's indispensable contribution to American preaching and his instrumental role in the Civil Rights Movement underscore a life devoted to uplifting the human soul and the equal treatment of men and women everywhere.

Dr. Taylor was born June 18, 1918 in segregated Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He was the only child born to Reverend Washington and Selina Taylor. He was only 13 years old when his father "Wash" Taylor passed away. Even the short time Gardner had with his father; he had already impacted Gardner's delivery of the spoken word. Originally pursuing hopes of one day becoming a lawyer, a single event would forever change his course and life pursuits. Gardner survived a horrific car accident that claimed the lives of two others. Convinced that his survival was no happenstance, it was then he experienced a call to ministry.

In 1937, Dr. Taylor forewent plans to attend the University of Michigan Law School and enrolled in the Oberlin School of Theology. It was there he met his wife, Laurabelle Scott, whom he married in 1940 and had one daughter, Martha. During his studies at Oberlin, Dr. Taylor preached at Bethany Baptist Church from 1938 to 1941. He later went on to pastor Concord Baptist Church of Christ in New York City in 1948. When he commenced his pastoral duties at Concord, church membership was a very respectable 5,000 members. By the end of his tenure in 1990, his unparalleled leadership and sermonic delivery grew the membership to more than 14,000 members.

Striving to serve equally beyond the pulpit, in 1961, he unsuccessfully sought the presidency of the National Baptist Convention. His close affiliation with Martin Luther King, Jr. and other Civil Rights leaders placed him at odds with members of the National Baptist Convention. Not one to be deterred from service, Dr. Taylor along with Dr. King, went on to found the Progressive National Baptist Convention.

Dr. Taylor's talent was revered. He taught at several elite divinity schools including Yale, Harvard, and Duke Universities. In 1979, Time magazine named Dr. Taylor one of the seven greatest Protestant preachers in America, and in 1980, the publication deemed him the "Dean of the Nation's Black Preachers".

In 1993, his influence reached into public service when he delivered the sermon for President William Jefferson Clinton's Inaugural Prayer Service. President Clinton was so impressed with Dr. Taylor that in 1997, he again enlisted Dr. Taylor to deliver the benediction at his second inauguration. And, in 2000, President Clinton honored Dr. Taylor with the Nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Dr. Taylor is commonly referred to as the "dean of American preaching" and the "poet laureate of American Protestantism." For many, Dr. Taylor's oration and style is considered the standard for young ministers seeking to learn the art of preaching. His brilliant ability to merge significant metaphors and powerful language into a seamless narrative continues to inspire clergy and laymen alike.

Dr. Taylor's life constitutes a worthy example for others, one in which everyone uses his or her individually bestowed talents to enrich the lives of the beloved community. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Gardner Calvin Taylor on his 94th birthday and honoring his lifelong commitment to the betterment of society.

SARA SUMMERS STEIN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sara Summers Stein of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Sara is active in the community through her work and has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Award for Emerging Leader.

Sara is an intelligent and highly motivated young woman who is considered a sparkplug wherever she happens to be serving. During an outstanding college and post-graduate career, Sara demonstrated strong leadership both in her personal work and her ability to head up major University programs. Since graduating with a PhD in Education Leadership, Sara has used her considerable talent to improve the lives of others. Sara has worked with the youth through EmpowerU and has been pivotal in the success of the parent-child reading program Read from the Start. Sara is currently working to bring awareness to Clean Air St. Joe while being a wife and a mother of two.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Sara Summers Stein. She has already made an amazing impact on countless

individuals in the St. Joseph community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

IN HONOR OF BRUCE KATSIFF'S
RETIREMENT FROM THE JAMES
A. MICHENER ART MUSEUM

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Bruce Katsiff, Director and CEO of the James A. Michener Art Museum, who is retiring after 23 years of dedicated service to the museum and the Bucks County community.

The Michener Museum is an important part of my district's art and cultural identity and this is due in no small part to Mr. Katsiff's leadership and vision. In fact, it was he who changed the name from the James A. Michener Arts Center to the now nationally recognized James A. Michener Art Museum.

In 1989 when he began as director, attendance at the museum averaged 8,000 visitors a year. Now, 120,000 people come to see the exhibits each year and the museum ranks among the top art museums in the greater Philadelphia region.

Bruce's love of art goes back to high school, where he discovered photography and participated in his first exhibit at the age of 17. He then studied photography at Rochester Institute of Technology, earned a Master of Fine Arts at the Pratt Institute and completed post-graduate work at the University of Oxford.

Mr. Katsiff's keen business sense blended well with his passion for art. Under his guidance, the museum flourished in size and staff. Just this month, the Edgar N. Putman Event Pavilion was opened to establish the museum as a premier destination for facility rentals in our area.

For Bruce's final project, the museum will host an exhibition from the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Italy, of Old Master paintings and tapestries, including oil paintings from legendary artists such as Botticelli and Titian.

Because of all that Mr. Katsiff has accomplished, I know that he will leave this position in high spirits. Thanks again to Bruce Katsiff for all that you have done for not only the Michener Museum, but for the entire Bucks County community. I am honored to serve as your representative in Congress, and I wish you many more years of continued success.

HONORING MR. RICHARD ZILKA

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard Zilka, outgoing president of the Clearing Civic League in Chicago, Illinois, for his lasting service to the community.

Mr. Zilka's community owes him an enormous debt. A member of the Clearing Civic League since 1965, he has been president for 26 years during which time he has distinguished himself as a tireless fighter for the

success and safety of the neighborhood. Instrumental in securing a public library for the citizens of Clearing and establishing the Clearing Night Watch, he also successfully campaigned against the installation of high-pollution medical incinerators in the area. These are just some of the many successes that he spearheaded on behalf of the residents of Clearing.

Mr. Zilka and his wife of 54 years, Marie, have two sons and one daughter. Prior to his retirement he worked for International Harvester, which has since become Navistar. He has also fulfilled a number of diverse roles in the community, including serving on the advisory council of Chicago's John F. Kennedy High School, and the Community Advisory Council in Bedford Park. He has also served as a member of the nearby Garfield Ridge Civic League. In recognition of his achievements, South Rutherford Avenue was recently renamed in his honor.

A resident of Chicago his entire life, Richard Zilka has been a tireless fighter for the well being of his neighbors on the Southwest Side. Held in the utmost regard within the community, I have been inspired by his loyal and enduring service. As he retires from his position as president of the Clearing Civic League, I wish him all the very best for the future.

COLONEL TODD P. "SLEDGE"
HARMER RETIRES AFTER 26
YEARS' SERVICE WITH THE
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Colonel Todd P. "Sledge" Harmer on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force.

I have had the pleasure of working with Sledge on a number of occasions during his tenure in the Air Force House Liaison Office, and greatly appreciate his professionalism, knowledge, and dedication, which has benefited me personally, as well as numerous other Members and staff.

Colonel Harmer has given much to this Nation through his dedicated and selfless service. His Air Force career started the day he arrived at the U.S. Air Force Academy in June of 1982. He established himself as a serious student with a great aptitude for flying. Upon graduation on May 28, 1986 with a Bachelor of Science degree in aeronautical engineering, Lt Harmer was competitively selected among pilot training selectees to attend Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training, Lead-In Fighter Training, and F16C Operational Course, excelling in each course. He was assigned to the 14th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Misawa AB, Japan where he started flying combat training missions and preparing for greater aerial tasks. His superiors rated him the "best wingman in the squadron" and recognized him as a gifted fighter pilot. As a new Captain, he was upgraded to instructor pilot (IP) and mission commander in absolute minimum time, then selected to be a Standardization/Evaluation Flight Examiner because of his great flying skill and leadership. He was reassigned to the 69th Fighter Squadron at Moody AFB, GA

as an IP and Chief of Weapons and Tactics. He was certified as combat-ready, and qualified in air-to-surface, air-to-air and nuclear roles. To no one's surprise, he was selected to attend the coveted F-16 Fighter Weapons Instructor Course, and completed it with honors. He went on to complete Squadron Officer School, again completing it with honors and the designation of Distinguished Graduate. He returned to the 69th Fighter Squadron for a few years to train and evaluate pilots, and contributed greatly to the success of this important fighter squadron. Captain Harmer was reassigned to the 23rd Operations Support Squadron at Pope AFB, NC where he was responsible for planning and coordinating F-16 employment supporting contingencies, exercises and readiness inspections. After serving as a flight commander and IP, he was sent overseas to serve in the 36th Fighter Squadron, Osan AB, Republic of Korea. He was hand-picked to command a flight of fighter pilots flying wartime taskings in an upgraded F-16C. His superiors identified him as an "aviator without peers", and the "greatest contributor to the combat readiness of the most forward deployed fighter squadron in the Air Force." He was promoted to the rank of Major and give greater responsibility as the Assistant Operations Officer, and later the Aide-de-Camp to the Seventh Air Force Commander, Lt General Joseph Hurd. General Hurd recognized his superior airmanship and trusted counsel and called him the finest aide he had ever seen. Sledge was sent to the U.S. Naval War College and earned a Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies, then went on to the Air Force's School of Advanced Airpower Studies and spent a year excelling in a rigorous curriculum. Following this, newly promoted Lt Colonel Harmer was assigned to the prestigious Checkmate Division at the Pentagon to lead the European Command Pacific Command Branch. There he continued to contribute, lead and inspire his research teams through keen analysis and writings. Senior Air Force leadership had been impressed with his papers and reports over the years, but his writings would receive special recognition while in Checkmate and would help shape the employment and advancement of air and space power. Perhaps more importantly, however, Lt Colonel Harmer would become an impact strategist and leader in the days following 9-11. He led teams developing Air Force position on Grand Military Strategy, air and space operations plans, combat search and rescue, and the air attack plan for Operation Enduring Freedom. His years of training, education and performing every mission in a superb manner would help him to continue on the track to senior leadership. He was assigned as the Commander, 63rd Fighter Squadron, Luke AFB, AZ and given the difficult task of commanding in the Air Force's largest fighter wing. He did not disappoint. He set the benchmark for training and air operations. Following this assignment, Lt Colonel Harmer would attend National War College at Fort McNair in Washington, DC and receive a Master of Science in National Security Strategy, and the designation of Distinguished Graduate. He would spend the following year in Turkey as an Executive Officer to the Commander of CC-Air and 16th Air Force, and, U.S. Senior National Representative, Allied Air Component Command HQ Izmir. He was promoted to Colonel and assigned as the Vice