

brutal attacks presented people with horrifying images of marchers left bloodied and severely injured, and roused support for the United States Civil Rights Movement. Two weeks later, Mr. Mants helped lead thousands of activists from around the country on a weeklong march from Selma to Montgomery to urge state officials to end practices aimed at keeping black Alabamians from voting.

Mr. Mants could have easily bypassed the growing civil rights movement of the 1960s by remaining at Morehouse College and pursuing “a well-worn path” to success. Instead, he became involved in the movement during its early stages and established a leadership reputation that put him on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma on March 7, 1965.

Shortly after the marches, Mr. Mants moved to nearby Lowndes County, Alabama to continue his work with the SNCC. Although the Lowndes County population was roughly 80 percent African-American, no black had successfully registered to vote in more than 60 years, as the county was controlled by 86 white families who owned 90 percent of the land. As a result, the SNCC created the Lowndes County Freedom Organization (LCFO) in 1965. The LCFO was a political party that formed to represent African-Americans in the central Alabama Black Belt (17) counties.

The LCFO was also known as the “Black Panther Party.” The Party’s goal was to promote and place its own candidates in political offices throughout the Alabama Black Belt. In 1966, while their attempts were unsuccessful, they continued to fight and their goal and motto of “black power” spread outside of Alabama. The movement spread all over the Nation. Two black Californians, Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale, asked for permission to use the Black Panther emblem that the LCFO had adopted for their newly formed Black Panther Party. The Oakland-based Black Panther Party became a much more prominent organization than the LCFO. Thus few people remember the origins of this powerful symbol with impoverished African-Americans in a rural Alabama County.

Mr. Mants continued to live and work in Lowndes County until his untimely death in December 2011. Although he was known more as a civil rights leader and community organizer, Mr. Mants also served as a Lowndes County Commissioner for many years, and was Chairman of the nonprofit “Lowndes County Friends of the Historic Trail.” Mr. Mants is survived by his wife of 45 years, Joann Christian Mants, and three children—Kadisha, Kumasi, and Katanga.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that our colleagues join me in honoring the life and legacy of Mr. Robert C. Mants, Jr., a global citizen and activist for civil rights.

HONORING SERVICE MEMBERS

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, it is to the honor of our service members that when they wear the uniform, they do so with the full knowledge that their engagement for our Nation will take them on long, sometimes dan-

gerous missions far from home. Each one is conscious of these dangers but chooses to confront them in the defense of our values. As a veteran I understand that this choice to serve is not just personal, it is shared with their families who must also accept the risks, the absences and in the ultimate circumstance—the loss of the one they love. It is to you the families that I now turn my thoughts to express with humility, my gratitude and respect.

It is fitting that the symbol chosen to mark this shared sacrifice is a Gold Star—fitting because we do not remember simply to mourn but rather to hold high the example of their courage, their willing abnegation. A star, fixed always in the firmament of heroes that we have been blessed to know.

Outside my office door, unique to the halls of Congress is a flag displaying one such star. It stands in tribute to the son of a staff member of mine who gave the fullest proof of his love for our Nation. That flag reminds me of my duty as a Congressman to ensure that those who fight for our country and their families receive the support and care that they earned through their service.

As the original author of the California Gold Star License Plate Bill, these families have a very special place in my heart and I am humbled to continue my support and commitment in their premium sacrifice being recognized.

Allow me once again to express my respect and fervent prayer that the strength we witness in you affirms in each of us the courage to serve our country in all ways we are able.

KHOJALY, AZERBAIJAN TRAGEDY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, as the Co-Chairman of the House Azerbaijan Caucus, I rise today to bring attention to the tragedy that took place in Khojaly, Azerbaijan, a town and townspeople that were destroyed on February 26, 1992.

This month we will mark the 20th anniversary of that devastating and heartbreaking day. Sadly, today there is little attention or interest paid to the plight of Khojaly outside of Azerbaijan. However, one of our greatest strengths as elected officials is the opportunity to bring to light truths that are little known and command recognition. As a friend of Azerbaijan, I am proud to remind my colleagues that we must never forget the tragedy that took place at Khojaly.

At the time, the Khojaly tragedy was widely covered by the international media, including the Boston Globe, Washington Post, New York Times, Financial Times, and many other European and Russian news agencies.

Khojaly, a town in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, now under the control of Armenian forces, was the site of the largest killing of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians. With a population of approximately 7,000, Khojaly was one of the largest urban settlements of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.

According to Human Rights Watch and other international observers the massacre was committed by the ethnic Armenian armed forces, reportedly with the help of the Russian

366th Motor Rifle Regiment. Human Rights Watch described the Khojaly Massacre as “the largest massacre to date in the conflict” over Nagorno-Karabakh. In a 1993 report, the watchdog group stated “there are no exact figures for the number of Azeri civilians killed because Karabakh Armenian forces gained control of the area after the massacre” and “while it is widely accepted that 200 Azeris were murdered, as many as 500—1,000 may have died.”

Azerbaijan has been a strong strategic partner and friend of the United States. The tragedy of Khojaly was a crime against humanity and I urge my colleagues to join me in standing with Azerbaijanis as they commemorate this tragedy.

HONORING LEON C. JOHNSON, SR.

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor the life of Mr. Leon C. Johnson, Sr.

Mr. Johnson was born in Columbia, South Carolina, on August 13, 1936, to Maceo P. and Ella L. Johnson, and passed on January 17, 2012. As a young man he was tagged with the nickname of “Lion,” denoting strength of character, leadership, determination and pride. This mantle he wore with pride and resolve, which he ably demonstrated as head of the family after the passing of his father and following his tour of duty during the Korean Conflict. Leon Johnson served from that point forward as the father figure and big brother for his younger siblings, Josephine, David, Theodore and Kenneth, as well as the co-leader of the Johnson family with his elder brother Maceo. Together, they instilled the virtues of family unity, sibling pride, honor, respect and drive to succeed. And each member held true to those life learning tenets and did achieve to those professional heights of success and service. All accomplished under the loving and watchful gaze of their mother, Ella Johnson and aunt, Annie Baisden, two women of strength, courage and determination, who vowed to raise the finest “gentlemen and lady” in the Johnson family tradition, both of whom preceded Leon in death, but left an indelible mark on everyone.

Leon graduated from Stanton High School in 1954 and attended Edward Waters College in Jacksonville, was a proud veteran who served his country in the Army during the Korean Conflict and began his professional career with the United States Postal System where he served in a variety of managerial positions until his retirement. He continued his service to the postal system and its many employees as a long time member of the Postal Credit Union Board of Directors. Leon is survived by his loving and caring wife of 52 years, Barbara Green Johnson; his son, Leon C. Johnson, Jr., and daughter Michelle, 5 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren, and a host of aunts, nephews, nieces and special friends.

His passing marks a very special moment, which is reflected in the depth of loss felt and hope renewed. Leon was a loving, caring family man and a dear friend to so many. It is said

that his was an infectious personality touching all whom he met. His legendary sense of humor was a joy and a comfort, adeptly conveying his care, concern and passion for others and it was limitless in its reach into the heart, soul and mind of those who bore witness to this wonderful and selfless man. His love of family and friends formed an unbreakable bond which withstood and weathered all manner of life's success and challenges, those of his own and of his loved ones and friends. This pure and deep love influenced his pledge to each of them to love, support, help and guide them through life, to celebrate their achievements and embrace their challenges. He stood proudly by his family and gave his best so that each would achieve and in so doing, give unto others the best of themselves in service to mankind. He gave so much, yet every sacrifice was meant to empower those whom he loved and in so doing he gained immeasurably in pride, stature and humility. His service to and love of family was a willing sacrifice willingly undertaken and richly rewarded as evidenced by his unabridged pride in all of his family's accomplishments and their resultant service to their communities. Never at a loss for words was Leon, through his humor, his compassion, his leadership, his fierce and determined support and his sheer love of family. This was a man of genuine love and compassion, and in his passing, a true celebration of life was held to remember and hold in highest esteem this man, this father, this husband, this brother and this friend.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask that you join me in honoring the life of a man who leaves behind a record of service that speaks volumes about his life.

HONORING MUHAMMAD ALI ON
THE OCCASION OF HIS 70TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the achievements of Muhammad Ali on the occasion of his 70th birthday, being celebrated by the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health, Keep Memory Alive, and the Muhammad Ali Center at the 2012 Power of Love Gala as they all join together to help alleviate memory, brain and movement disorders.

As a boxer, Muhammad Ali is renowned as the first three-time Heavy Weight Champion of the World with 56 wins, 5 losses, and 37 knockouts. Leading up to his world championships, Mr. Ali won an Olympic Gold Medal, Golden Gloves, and an Amateur Athletic Union Championship. Among the hundreds of accolades, Mr. Ali has received over the years, he has been recognized by Sports Illustrated as "Sportsman of the Century," GQ Magazine as "Athlete of the Century," the BBC as "Sports Personality of the Century," and the World Sports Award for "World Sportsman of the Century."

More than 50 years after winning the Gold Medal at the 1960 Rome Olympics, Muhammad Ali remains an endearing figure of both strength and compassion, known and beloved throughout the world.

Internationally, championing the issues of the developing world has become a major focus of Muhammad's life. For this, he has received many awards and accolades, including Messenger of Peace by the United Nations 1998–2008 for his work with developing nations, Amnesty International's Lifetime Achievement Award, Germany's 2005 Otto Hahn Peace Medal for his involvement in the United Nations and the U.S. Civil Rights Movement, and he was named International Ambassador of Jubilee 2000, a global organization dedicated to relieving debt in developing nations. Muhammad has also been instrumental in providing over 232 million meals to the world's hungry.

In 2005, Muhammad Ali was presented with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our country's highest civilian award, for his life's work. Along with his charitable work around the globe, Muhammad has been dedicated to helping charities at home as well, including the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville, Kentucky, founded by Muhammad and his wife, Lonnie. The Muhammad Ali Center is a cultural and international education center that is inspired by his ideals. The Center serves as the global hub for championing the six prevailing core values of his life: respect, confidence, conviction, dedication, giving and spirituality. Much more than a place to tell the story of one man's incredible 70-year journey, the Muhammad Ali Center reaches beyond its physical walls to fulfill its mission—in 2012, the Center's activities will ensure that future generations understand and actively adopt Muhammad's core values to create a powerful new movement: Generation Ali.

In addition to his many philanthropic endeavors, Muhammad Ali is also celebrated for the awareness he has brought to Parkinson's disease through his own personal battle with the disease. His aim is to dramatically accelerate the understanding of Parkinson's disease and the pursuit of effective treatments.

As the Representative for Nevada's First Congressional district, it gives me immense pride to celebrate the 70th birthday of Muhammad Ali, the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health, Keep Memory Alive, and the Muhammad Ali Center, as they fight to put memory, brain and movement disorders down for a final 10-count.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I was absent from the House on Tuesday, February 14th, Wednesday, February 15th, and part of Thursday, February 16th due to a death in my family. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall votes 49, 52–61, 63, 64, 65, 67, and 68, and I would have voted "no" on rollcall votes 50, 51, 62, 66, 69.

HONORING DR. PAUL STANTON

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career and work of Dr. Paul Stanton, president of East Tennessee State University for the past fifteen years. Dr. Stanton first came to ETSU in 1985, as director of the Division of Peripheral Vascular Surgery for the Veterans Administration Medical Center and ETSU's James H. Quillen College of Medicine. Over the next twelve years he devoted himself to ETSU, and for his dedication and hard work, he was named president in 1997. Under Dr. Stanton's leadership, ETSU markedly increased its percentage of residential students, built two large new dorms, and celebrated its centennial anniversary. Under his stewardship Princeton Review has named ETSE as one of America's best value colleges, and one of the top schools in the Southeast. Speaking as a physician, his most important achievement may have been the construction and completion of the Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy. During Dr. Stanton's tenure, the Quillen College of Medicine has consistently been named as one of the top rural medical schools in the country, educating the next generation of physicians who more often than not stay and practice in East Tennessee, in addition to serving similar rural communities around the country.

Through his sound leadership, Dr. Stanton, has strengthened the foundation of an important educational institution in East Tennessee. My daughter Whitney is a proud alumna of this distinguished public university.

Along with providing transformative leadership for one of East Tennessee's most important academic institutions, Dr. Paul Stanton has long been a devoted and caring physician, family man, grandfather, teacher, scientist, mentor, true gentleman and a fellow Methodist. Throughout it all his beautiful and terrific wife Nancy has supported him and undertaken a great deal of community involvement herself. Though I know he will miss ETSU, I am sure Dr. Stanton will find a way to keep himself busy between golf, grandchildren, and continued service to the community.

I thank Dr. Stanton for his service and wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2012

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 50, Wednesday afternoon, I was participating in an important subcommittee meeting and was unable to make the first vote of the series. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."