

Previously, he held positions as dean of the College of Education at the University of Bridgeport, Connecticut, Professor of teacher education at Vanderbilt University's George Peabody College, Chair of Elementary Education at Kent State University, and as Distinguished Visiting Professor at Bir Zeit University near Ramallah in the West Bank of Palestine.

He has been recognized for his contributions to the field of education and has been a member for 10 years on the Legislative Advisory Committee to the Texas Association of School Boards. In addition, he was a member of the North Texas Area Association of School Boards' executive committee for six years. In 2010, he received an award of distinguished service at the TASB and TASA state conference, and in 1996 he achieved the Master Trustee status from TASB.

Dr. Ramsey has shared his expertise as an educational consultant and witness before the Texas Legislature. He dedicated hundreds of hours to visit and speak to legislators about many proposed bills that could have a direct impact on education, Texas students, and the country. His dedication and public service on behalf of Texas students and teachers has never wavered.

Earlier this month, Dr. Ramsey announced that he will be retiring from the Denton ISD Board of Trustees in May. His valuable contributions to education and the Denton community have been unparalleled and his departure will leave an outstanding legacy of service. I am pleased to recognize Dr. Curtis Ramsey and am privileged to represent Denton ISD in the U.S. House of Representatives.

A TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of National Peace Corps Week, in honor of the 51st Anniversary of the Peace Corps on March 1, 2012.

Since the inception of the Peace Corps in 1961, more than 200,000 Peace Corps Volunteers have served their country in 139 developing nations around the globe. They range from recent college graduates to retirees with several decades of work experience, and represent the tremendous diversity of the American people. The issues they address cover agriculture, business development, information technology, education, health and HIV/AIDS, youth development, and the environment.

The work of Peace Corps Volunteers around the globe exemplifies a legacy of service that has become a significant part of America's history and positive image abroad. Their desire to make a difference has improved the lives of millions of people around the world as well as here in the United States. Their enduring efforts for the cause of peace are commendable and have made a lasting impact on the communities in which they have lived and worked.

Four individuals from my Congressional District in Brooklyn are presently serving as Peace Corps volunteers. Melinda Blaise has been serving in the Eastern Caribbean since

October 2010; Ethan A. Glasser-Camp has been serving in Cameroon since August 2010; Evelyn Minaya has been serving in Romania since August 2010; and Rosemarie B. Philip has been serving in Costa Rica since December 2010. Their tireless efforts for the greater cause of peace will profoundly affect these communities. I would like to applaud and commend these outstanding volunteers from Brooklyn for committing themselves to such a worthwhile cause. They are role models for us all.

HONORING THE HEROES OF SELMA, ALABAMA

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2012

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, 47 years ago this month, nearly 8,000 men and women from every walk of life took to the streets in Selma, Alabama in three successive marches to demand full and equal rights for every American.

These ordinary heroes were brutally beaten by Alabama State Troopers as they crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma on Sunday, March 7, 1965. The horrifying images of Bloody Sunday, as it would become known, were captured on film and broadcast around the world—ultimately helping to galvanize national support for civil rights.

Undeterred, the marchers returned twice more, walking the streets and highways of Alabama in an unflinching show of support for equality. Among them were Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Ralph Abernathy, and our colleague Congressman JOHN LEWIS. I had the great honor last year of marking this important civil rights moment by traveling to Selma with Congressman LEWIS and participating in a reenactment of this march. It was, without question, one of the most extraordinary moments of my life.

I would also like to take a moment to recognize the extraordinary achievement of my colleague, Congresswoman TERRI SEWELL, a member of this year's freshman class, who grew up in and now represents Selma, Alabama. Congresswoman SEWELL was born in Alabama the same year as the Selma marches, and as the first African-American woman elected to Congress from Alabama and a Rhodes Scholar, I believe that her success is a testament to the lasting legacy of the brave men and women who risked their lives for equality almost a half century ago.

I join my colleagues in saluting the heroes of Selma, Alabama today.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF LT COL JOHN DARIN LOFTIS, USAF

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sympathy and solemn gratitude that I rise to pay tribute to a fallen American hero. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel John Darin Loftis, of Paducah, Kentucky, was killed on

February 25 in Kabul, Afghanistan, while working at the Afghanistan Ministry of the Interior in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. J.D. or Darin, as his family and friends knew him, was assigned to Air Force Special Operations Command.

Lt Col Loftis first entered the Air Force in 1996 as a Space and Missile Officer after receiving his commission through Officer Training School. In 2008, he became a Regional Affairs Strategist; and in 2009, he deployed to Afghanistan with a Provincial Reconstruction Team with a mission to help Afghanistan rebuild its infrastructure and secure the rule of law within the country. It was during that deployment that his fluency in the Pashto language made it possible for him and his team to engage directly with local Afghans. This helped both sides establish a mutual trust and provided a means to exchange viewpoints and learn about each other's culture. In fact, he was so successful that the local Afghans gave him the Pashto name: Esan, meaning the quality of being generous. During his last deployment, Lt Col Loftis was once again working to help U.S. service members bridge the cultural divide that separates them from their Afghan and Pakistani counterparts.

His mission was a noble one and of his dedication to duty, courage of heart, and commitment to our great nation, there can be no doubt. To Lt Col Loftis' loving wife Holly and his two precious daughters, Alison and Camille, my wife Vicki joins me in offering our most sincere condolences. We have heard many times and know in our hearts the truth that Freedom often demands of us a heavy and at times unbearable price. Your husband and father was a living example of the Airman's Creed, "I am an American Airman, guardian of freedom and justice, my nation's sword and shield, its sentry and avenger. I defend my Country with my life." He was a brave man and paid the ultimate price in defense of our nation's freedom. For that and for everything he stood for, we owe you our eternal gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful United States Congress, I stand here today to honor Lt Col John Darin Loftis, his service and sacrifice, and all of the heroes we have lost. May God continue to bless the Loftis family and friends, the AFSOC community, and the United States Armed Forces.

DIRECTING OFFICE OF HISTORIAN TO COMPILE ORAL HISTORIES FROM MEMBERS INVOLVED IN ALABAMA CIVIL RIGHTS MARCHES

SPEECH OF

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, forty-seven years ago, 600 civil rights protesters en route from Selma to Montgomery were stopped at the Edmund Pettus Bridge where state and local policemen attacked them with billy clubs and tear gas, driving them back to Selma. I was honored to vote for a resolution on March 1, 2012, calling on Congress to collect oral histories from current and former members of the House who lived through that chilling day

known as Bloody Sunday. We must not forget the courage of my esteemed colleague, Congressman JOHN LEWIS, and others during the march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama in March 1965. Non-violent marchers led by LEWIS and Hosea Williams were brutally beaten, opening the eyes of the Nation to the struggle of African Americans to win the right to vote. Let us resolve to protect the voting rights for which participants of that march suffered such brutality, and honor them for their commitment to non-violence. They are an inspiration for all Americans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, February 27, 2012, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 73 (on the motion to concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 347).

HONORING NORMAN L. HENRY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Mr. Norman L. Henry, President and Executive Director of Builders of Hope CDC. Builders of Hope CDC is a Community Housing Development Corporation in Dallas that has demonstrated its commitment to revitalizing communities through the construction of energy-efficient, environmentally-friendly homes that are also accessible to low and moderate-income families.

Under Mr. Henry's leadership, Builders of Hope CDC has led the way in quality affordable housing in the Dallas area. Since accepting the position as President in 2000, Mr. Henry has overseen a fourfold increase in the output of affordable homes across several neighborhoods throughout West and South Dallas. Utilizing over 21 years of experience in the non-profit management and affordable housing field, Mr. Henry has built, remodeled, and sold over 224 affordable homes.

With the housing market collapse in 2008, countless Americans have either lost their homes entirely or now find the value of their homes to be less than the amounts they owe on a mortgage. Norman Henry, through the work that he has done with Builders of Hope CDC, has contributed to keeping the American Dream alive through the construction of these homes. Quality and affordable housing should not be out of reach for any American with the desire to purchase a home, and Mr. Henry has helped to bring the pride of home ownership to even more Americans.

Mr. Speaker, Norman Henry has helped to breathe new life into many West and South Dallas communities through his revitalization

efforts. His vision to revive otherwise decrepit areas across Dallas will benefit countless people through expanded access to housing and improved quality of life. It is with great pleasure that I honor the work of Mr. Norman Henry for his contributions.

COMMEMORATION OF MARIA D. FERNANDES

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2012

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and legacy of Maria D. Fernandes of Sea Bright, New Jersey. Mayor Fernandes served the constituents of Sea Bright for 16 years and retired in January 2012. She passed away on Sunday, February 26, 2012 at the age of 59. Throughout her illustrious career, the Mayor continued to preserve and enhance the quality of life for Sea Bright residents. Her service is truly worthy of this body's recognition.

Maria Fernandes served as Sea Bright Borough Mayor from 2008 until 2011. She was proud to be the first Portuguese-American female Mayor in the state of New Jersey and the third in the United States. Before becoming Mayor, Ms. Fernandes was elected to the Sea Bright Borough Council in 1997 and served in this capacity through 2007. She was appointed Sea Bright Council President from 2003 through 2005 and was an active participant and member of the Sea Bright Planning and Zoning Board from 1996 through 2011. As a member of the Borough Council, she implemented a program to add the North and South Beach areas to the monthly street cleaning schedule. Sea Bright now has regularly scheduled street cleaning services once a month as a result of Mayor Fernandes' initiatives. Her leadership abilities also led to her appointment as Chair of the Sea Bright Public Works Committee in which she assisted in consolidating services and improving the accessibility and cleanliness of the local beaches. As Public Works Committee Chair, she also managed the Sea Bright Downtown Infrastructure Improvement Project (DIIP), addressing the flooding in downtown Sea Bright. Other projects during Mayor Fernandes' tenure on the Borough Council have included the implementation of the free parking system and the negotiation of multiple shared services contracts with neighboring towns.

Mayor Fernandes is predeceased by her Father Ernest Fernandes and her Maternal Grandmother, Jesuina Diaz. Surviving is her Mother, Adelina Fernandes of Sea Bright.

Mr. Speaker, Mayor Maria Fernandes dedicated her life to serving the people and the town of Sea Bright New Jersey. Her actions touched the hearts and minds of countless men, women and children throughout Sea Bright and Monmouth County. Her legacy has served as an inspiration to us all and she will truly be missed.

HONORING LONG-TIME MONTEREY PARK RESIDENT AND COMMUNITY ACTIVIST: MRS. RUTH WILLNER

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2012

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great loss to our community, Mrs. Ruth Willner, who passed away on February 28, 2012, after a lengthy and valiant battle with cancer. My heart goes out to her two children, Paul and Julia; her granddaughter, Eryn; and her many friends and family members.

Ruth was an extraordinary citizen, an advocate for her community, and a good friend and loyal supporter. I first got to know Ruth's strength and passion in the 1980s, when she was the Chairperson of the Committee for Harmony in Monterey Park, which was formed to defeat a proposed English-only and anti-immigrant ordinance in our hometown. Thanks to Ruth's tireless efforts we succeeded in defeating that ordinance.

A native of East Los Angeles, Ruth attended Roosevelt High School and earned degrees from Los Angeles Community College and TIC Berkeley. A widower, she was married to her husband Irv for 56 years and lived in Monterey Park for 52 years.

Ruth truly loved her community. She was involved in too many community groups, commissions and organizations to name here, including the city's Blue Ribbon Budget Committee, the School District Formation Committee, Friends of the Library, Concerned Citizens, and the anti-casino and anti-billboard committees, to name a few.

As a 35-year member of the Pasadena League of Women Voters, Ruth played an integral role in educating and informing our local electorate. As program chair she shed light on issues as varied as NAFTA, Environmental Justice, Immigration and Welfare Reform, and as a member of the Speakers' Bureau for 25 years she presented pro and con forums on countless ballot issues and moderated scores of candidate forums.

A true believer in the political process, Ruth was a member of the Monterey Park Democratic Club since 1967, where she served as past president and ran the club's newsletter for 20 years. She also was an elected member of the L.A. County Democratic Party for 12 years and served as corresponding secretary for the party.

She was a tireless campaigner, walking precincts and phone banking for George Brown for Assembly, serving as the San Gabriel Valley Coordinator to End the War in Vietnam, and volunteering for Hubert Humphrey and George McGovern, among many others.

I urge my House colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Ruth Willner for her record of civic activism, her indomitable spirit and her remarkable service and contributions to her community and to our nation.