

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF  
HOBART CLAY MARCHANT

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 16, 2012*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with both pride and sadness that I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of my father, Hobart Clay Marchant, who passed away on March 22nd at the age of 91. He leaves behind a great legacy seen in my mother, a woman he married 62 years ago, and in his family of five children, fifteen grandchildren, and six great grandchildren.

My father's life was dedicated to the service of those around him. This was seen at a young age when, after the attack on Pearl Harbor, he answered the call of duty and enlisted as a field radio operator for the U.S. Army. For three years, my father served in World War II on the hilltops of the Pacific Islands intercepting vital messages to protect his country and further the cause of freedom. His time overseas also included ground combat at Iwo Jima. It was just one year ago that my dad was reflecting on his time of service and told me how privileged and proud he was to live in the land of the free.

After returning home, my father married my mother, Frances Helen Jones, on August 18, 1950, in Grand Prairie, Texas. As the family grew, my parents moved us to the Carrollton-Farmers Branch area. There my father founded a barbershop he ran for 46 years. It was in that storefront where he taught me and my siblings the values of hard work and family as we polished shoes and greeted customers. My father went on to found a roofing and building development business he ran in partnership with my brothers and me until his retirement. That business, H.C. Marchant Custom Homes, still remains in our family today.

A devout Christian, my father was a charter member of the Carrollton Church of the Nazarene and an active member throughout his life. There he began decades of service caring for the community and his family. Psalm 112 says the righteous man is one who deals generously, who is marked with grace and mercy, and whose heart is firm in the Lord. This describes the life my father lived, and I rest fondly on the promise found in this same Psalm that the righteous man will be remembered forever.

Hobart Marchant was my lifelong hero and an inspiration for all his children. His service to his country is representative of his entire generation and the work ethic and patriotism they passed on to their children. My father always believed in America and her future, and was influential in my decision to enter public service. After every flight home from votes in Washington, he was always my first visit. I would not be the man I am today, nor had the success and grace of God throughout my life, had he not been a guiding force in my childhood, youth, and adulthood.

Mr. Speaker, my father was a great man in the community in which he lived and worked. His work ethic, values, and integrity have set an example for his entire family and those who knew him. I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating his life and honoring the many people whose lives are better for having known him.

A TRIBUTE TO CAROLYN INGRAM SEITZ, 29TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2012

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 16, 2012*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year during the month of March, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments made by our Nation's most distinguished women.

Today, I pay tribute to Carolyn Ingram Seitz of Altadena, California. A zoning and planning consultant who has worked on many projects in Altadena for the last two decades, Carolyn moved to Altadena in 2000.

Not long after she moved into Altadena, Ms. Seitz became involved in the community, advocating for community safety, and working with the Altadena Sheriff's Department and community members on neighborhood nuisance and other issues. She worked with her neighbors to form a neighborhood watch, and helped other neighborhoods prepare and be organized for cataclysmic events or natural disasters. Carolyn has also assisted with organizing Community Emergency Response Team, CERT, trainings, which offers drills, trainings and refreshers throughout the year. She is the Altadena Sheriff's Station CERT Coordinator, a member of the Regional CERT working group and sits on the Los Angeles County Operational Area Disaster Corps Volunteers Advisory Council. When the Station Fire occurred, Ms. Seitz worked tirelessly for many hours to ensure that the community had updated information on the fire, and the probable impacts caused by the rain that would result in flooding and mudflows.

Carolyn was appointed as the Chairwoman of the Altadena Sheriff's Community Advisory Committee in 2007. In 2010 she brought together the California Highway Patrol, American Red Cross, Pasadena Police Department and community members to a successful Neighborhood Watch Conference, which she organized at Loma Alta Park in Altadena. Along with her extensive volunteer work with the Altadena Sheriff's Department, Carolyn contributes many hours to organizations such as the Quality of Life Center, Inc., Mentoring and Partnership for Youth Development, the Altadena Chamber of Commerce and the Central Altadena Little League. Recognized for her work in improving sheriff-community relations, Ms. Seitz has also been honored with the Altadena Chamber of Commerce's Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award in 2010.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an outstanding woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Carolyn Ingram Seitz.

TRANSPORTATION ORIENTED JOBS  
INITIATIVE

**HON. THOMAS E. PETRI**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 16, 2012*

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today, along with Representative LIPINSKI, I am introducing legis-

lation to stimulate the financing of passenger rail development from revenues generated from transportation oriented development.

The National High Performance Passenger Rail Transportation Oriented Development Act aims to capture some of the increasing value of commercial development around station areas, which in turn would help finance rail corridor infrastructure and operational expenses. Besides providing a funding stream for intercity and passenger operations, the initiative places emphasis on intermodal connectors to create vibrant communities along the corridor. The legislation aims to begin a major public-private partnership initiative that will revitalize America's rail infrastructure to create a true third passenger transportation option to highways and aviation while at the same time creating intermodal access communities.

Under the proposal, the U.S. Department of Transportation will retain a Planning Developer who will establish guidelines for transportation oriented development programs, including special assessment districts or similar mechanisms to capture revenues from increasing commercial value. Rail corridor development funds will be established at the regional level to capture increasing real estate values. A stream of those revenues will be directed to support rail passenger operations.

The proposal permits qualified projects to apply for federal incentives to finance construction and produce jobs. These incentives will include direct access to existing Federal Railroad Administration and Federal Transit Administration programs, including a high priority for federal transportation grant applications. The initiative will be staffed by existing employees and remain revenue neutral in that all program activities, including the work of the Planning Developer, will be repaid once the high performance rail service and commercial development is implemented and generating revenues.

I hope that this bill will open a discussion on the possibilities and potential promise of passenger rail development in the U.S.

75TH BIRTHDAY OF THE AIR  
FORCE'S 3D WEATHER SQUAD-  
RON AT FORT HOOD, TX

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 16, 2012*

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the 75th Birthday of the Air Force's 3d Weather Squadron at Fort Hood, Texas and honor the squadron's first commander, Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient General Leon W. Johnson.

Mr. Speaker, I have the high honor of representing the brave men and women at Fort Hood, Texas, the largest military installation in the world. Every day that I have the opportunity to serve in Congress, I do so knowing that my number one responsibility is to give our men and women in uniform the support and resources they need to be successful. Each time I visit Fort Hood, I see America's finest, the Airmen and Soldiers who put it all on the line to allow us to live in the greatest country on Earth.

Representing Fort Hood, Texas also comes with the sober reminder of the sacrifice that

our young men and women in the military and their families make to the cause of freedom. For 75 years, the Airmen of the 3d Weather Squadron have exemplified this sacrifice as they stood alongside their Army brethren in support of a long list of military operations. In just the past 20 years, the 3d Weather Squadron has deployed for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Operation Allied Force, Operation Unified Response, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn.

When activated on 1 July 1937, the 3d Weather Squadron was a part of the U.S. Army, as the Air Force had not yet been established. Today the squadron continues a proud history of faithfully providing Battlefield Weather support to the Army, both in garrison and in combat. The stated mission of 3d Weather Squadron is to “deliver superior weather capability when called upon to support any worldwide land component tasking.” True to this mission, the Airmen of the 3d Weather Squadron have sustained a continual, unbroken deployed presence in Southwest Asia dating back to 2003 alongside numerous Army units including III Corps, 1st Armored Division, 1st Infantry Division, 1st Cavalry Division, and 4th Infantry Division. On any given day, approximately 25 percent of the squadron is deployed with the Army.

Mr. Speaker, the 75th Birthday of 3d Weather Squadron also affords us the opportunity to celebrate the extraordinary life of the squadron’s first commander and a singularly heroic warrior, General Leon W. Johnson. Leon W. Johnson was born in Columbia, MO, in 1904. He spent his boyhood in Columbia and Moline, KS. He later graduated from the U.S. Military Academy and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in June 1926. Lieutenant Johnson decided he’d “have to know something about weather if he intended to be a leader in the Air Force,” so he enrolled at the California Institute of Technology and earned a Master’s Degree in Meteorology in 1936. The next year he became one of the Army Air Corps Weather Service’s first 22 weather officers and assumed command of the 3d Weather Squadron when it was activated on 1 July 1937. General Johnson subsequently took command of the 44th Bomb Group during World War II and earned the Medal of Honor for his role in the strategically crucial raid on the Ploesti oil fields in Rumania. General Johnson served in a wide variety of critical positions with both the Army and the Air Force throughout his 34 years of service.

Mr. Speaker, I will close by asking my colleagues to join me in recognizing the heroic Airmen of the 3d Weather Squadron as they mark the 3d Weather Squadron’s 75th birthday and that we also honor an American patriot and hero, Medal of Honor Recipient General Leon W. Johnson.

HONORING MIKE JONES

**HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 16, 2012*

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Mike Jones’ years of dedicated service to the Economic Council of Palm Beach County. Mike leaves behind a strong

legacy of working with business and community leaders to create progress in our community.

Founded 35 years ago, the Economic Council of Palm Beach County is a non-profit advocacy organization that works to help foster an environment where businesses can grow and thrive. As president of this vital organization, Mike has worked for over a decade in order to achieve that goal. He understood that pragmatic solutions come from bringing more people to the table. That is why he led a forum of 30 business groups to help discuss the development of a strategic plan for the county, and worked to create a regulatory climate more conducive to business practices.

Mike’s impact in South Florida extends beyond the business world. During his tenure, he worked with the entire community to help advocate for better schools and educational opportunities, and prioritized ethics reform by pushing the county to create an Office of the Inspector General and an Ethics Commission.

I congratulate Mike Jones, his wife Dee, and their son, as they celebrate Mike’s retirement. Mike’s dedicated leadership has made a positive impact on the South Florida community, and it is an honor to represent him here in Washington.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HEROICS OF FOUR GREAT OAKS STUDENTS

**HON. STEVE AUSTRIA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 16, 2012*

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of four Great Oaks Vocational School students: layie Viassy, Wade Aills, Brandon North, and Austin Salisbury. I am proud to recognize these four young men for their brave heroics in helping 53 Miami Trace elementary school children off an overturned bus on March 12, 2012.

At 4:16 p.m. on March 12, a school bus transporting children home from school veered off the road and rolled onto its right side into a ditch. With the passenger door pinned against the ground, Wade Aills made the decision to kick open the emergency rear door. The four boys then proceeded to aid the elementary children in exiting the bus and keeping everyone calm until emergency personnel could arrive. When EMS units arrived on the scene, all of the children had been evacuated safely, with only a few children that suffered minor injuries.

Recently, these young men were honored and recognized by the Fayette County Sheriff’s Office and the Miami Trace elementary school for their actions.

Thus, today I ask my colleagues to join me and the constituents of Ohio’s Seventh Congressional District in recognizing four true heroes: layie Viassy, Wade Aills, Brandon North, and Austin Salisbury.

LARRY DECKER TRIBUTE

**HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 16, 2012*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Larry Decker of Pueblo, Colorado.

After earning his education and serving in the U.S. Navy Mr. Decker moved to Pueblo. Always a strong leader in the community, Mr. Decker was frequently involved in Veterans activities and organizations. He was a proud member of American Legion Post 207 and served a leadership role among his peers. As the senior vice commander of Post 207, Mr. Decker was highly respected not only in the American Legion but also in the Pueblo community.

As enthusiastic as he was with helping others in the community, his real passion was his family. He leaves behind his wife Joan who has been by his side since 1964. Together they raised a loving family that includes two daughters and three grandchildren. On April 5th, the city of Pueblo and the State of Colorado lost a great man.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Larry Decker. I rise today to thank him for his work on behalf of the citizens of Pueblo, and for his service to our nation. May he rest in peace.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY WILDCATS MEN’S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2012 NCAA DIVISION I MEN’S CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. HAROLD ROGERS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 16, 2012*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to rise today to commend and congratulate the University of Kentucky Wildcats men’s basketball team on winning the 2012 NCAA Men’s Division I Basketball Championship.

By now, any basketball fan is familiar with the legacy of the Wildcats. The “Greatest Tradition in College Basketball,” Kentucky is the winningest program of all-time, both in total wins and total win percentage, and the first team to break the 2,000 win threshold. Kentucky has fifteen Final Four appearances, and now eight national championships, second only to UCLA.

Even measured against this pedigree and the impossibly high expectations of the Big Blue Nation, this batch of ‘Cats was something special. “The Undeniables,” as they are known, were ranked number one in the nation for most of the year, losing only two games on their way to setting the NCAA record of thirty-eight wins in a single season. During their remarkable NCAA tournament run they won each game by an astonishing average of ten points, never trailing in a second half. While the title was the ultimate goal, the Final Four victory over instate rival the University of Louisville may have been even sweeter, as the highest stakes game ever played in the historic rivalry and the most important single sporting event in the history of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

This team achieved greatness against extraordinary competition because of the players’ love and respect for one another. It is telling that a team led by three freshmen and two sophomores all forecast to be first round NBA draft picks, and all used to scoring 25 points a night in high school, were known first and foremost for their defense. Their willingness to