

Whereas, the birth of James Jordan in Jackson County, Georgia on August 15, 1837 began the Jordan family lineage which has blessed us with descendants that have helped to shape our nation; and

Whereas, through the union of James and Dicey Shields Jordan (1858), Summie, John, James, Hilliard (Hill), Mary, Woodie, Henry Arthur, Babe, Alice and Emma were born; In 1885, James was united in marriage to his second wife Nancy Polk Jordan wherein, Bertha, Gilbert, Luther, Pledger, Judson and Lucy were born. The Jordan Family has produced many well respected citizens and the patriarchs and matriarchs of the Jordan Family are pillars of strength that have touched many throughout our nation, family members of the past and present such as Mrs. Janice Anderson Edwards, Rev. Frankie Jordan, Rev. Darrill White, Mrs. Evelyn Boynton, Miss Beverly Gray, Mrs. Annie Ruth Johnson, Mrs. Martha Ann Whitlock, Mr. Jerome Anderson, Mr. Summie Jordan, Ms. Rhea Brackery, Miss Rasheedah Carter, Ms. Vel Ford and Mrs. Ollie Brooks; and

Whereas, in our beloved Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, we are honored to have members of the Jordan family for they are some of our most beloved citizens in our District; and

Whereas, family is one of the most honored and cherished institutions in the world, we take pride in knowing that families such as the Jordan family have set aside this time to fellowship with each other, honor one another and to pass along history to each other by meeting at this year's family reunion in DeKalb County, Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the Jordan family; Now Therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim June 28, 2013 as Jordan Family Reunion Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 28th day of June, 2013.

IN HONOR OF JOE DUARTE

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I rise in honor of Joe Duarte, who passed away on July 23 in Sacramento, at the age of 84. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Duarte as his family and friends gather to celebrate his life and legacy.

Mr. Duarte, a former Merchant Marine, devoted his life to helping our community. A life-long athlete who played professional baseball with the St. Louis Browns, Mr. Duarte was committed to promoting recreational and academic activities for the youth of Sacramento. As a member of the Greater Sacramento Evening Optimist Club, in 1971 Mr. Duarte founded the Optimist All-Star baseball, basketball, and football games. He organized the best high school seniors from the Greater Sacramento area into teams to participate in these games. Not stopping with baseball, basketball, and football, Mr. Duarte also organized girls softball and volleyball games.

Mr. Duarte created and organized the Youth Appreciation Night for Students from more

than ten schools, which for over 20 years has recognized students who excel in academic, athletics and community service. In 2005, he created the Respect for Law program which honors seniors from the Criminal Justice Academies at Grant Union, John F. Kennedy, Hiram Johnson, and C. K. McClatchy high schools at a banquet which included their parents and Sacramento law enforcement officers.

Mr. Duarte's honors include inductions into the San Francisco Parks and Recreation Hall of Fame in 1975, the Greater Sacramento Softball Association Hall of Fame, and the LaSalle Club Baseball Hall of Fame at Christian Brothers High School in Sacramento in 2001.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in paying honor to Joe Duarte for being an exemplary member of the Sacramento community. His life and commitment to our community is an inspiration to us all. The Greater Sacramento area has lost a true citizen of the community who always put service above self. I ask that we take a moment and give our utmost respect and condolences to his wife, Phyllis, and their three children.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF KENNETH ABRAHAMIAN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Kenneth Abrahamian as he receives his World War II (WWII) Medals. He is the recipient of the Philippine Liberation Medal, WWII Victory Medal, WWII Asiatic Pacific Medal, Navy Good Conduct Medal, and American Campaign Medal. Mr. Abrahamian is a source of pride for our Central Valley and our entire nation.

Mr. Abrahamian grew up in the Valley and graduated from Central High School in 1941. Following his graduation, he enlisted in the United States Navy to serve his country in WWII. He served honorably and proudly from 1942 to 1946. Mr. Abrahamian was stationed in the Pacific as a machinist mate aboard the USS *Spangler* and the USS *Ajax*.

Mr. Abrahamian married Isabelle Zadurian at the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church in Fresno, California. They have three children; Jeanette, Patricia, and Kenneth, daughter-in-law, Sue, and two grandchildren; Kenneth Andrew and Allyson Marie.

The Abrahamians have spent their entire lives in the Rolinda area, a small unincorporated community in Fresno County. They farmed raisins, almonds, alfalfa, barley, black-eyed peas, broccoli, corn, cotton, oats, onions, sugar beets, turkeys, and wheat. Mr. Abrahamian truly understands the importance of hard work and he has shown that through his labor on the farm and service in the military. As a resident of the Rolinda area, Mr. Abrahamian is known to be a great neighbor and friend.

Staying involved and supporting the community has always been very important to Mr. Abrahamian. He is an active member of his church, and he always participates in the annual Rolinda Charity BBQ. Mr. Abrahamian's spirit and drive keep him going every day. A couple months short of 90 years old, Mr.

Abrahamian is still out on his farm daily. He is an inspiration for all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the service of Mr. Kenneth Abrahamian. He truly is a shining example of a proud American, and we must thank him for his service to our country.

STATEMENT ON 30 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE OF COUNCILMAN ALBERT VANN

HON. HAKEEM S. JEFFRIES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the achievements of Councilman Albert Vann. During his years of service, Councilman Vann has helped thousands and worked tirelessly to improve the lives of all those he encountered. In celebration of his 30 years of outstanding service, Councilman Vann was honored on May 9, 2013, at Boys and Girls High School in Brooklyn, NY, where the library was renamed in his honor.

As both a teacher and elected official, Councilman Vann has served the people of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, the community in which he was born and raised. Councilman Vann graduated from Franklin K. Lane High School and went on to earn his B.B.A. from Toledo University, his Master's Degree in Education from Yeshiva University, and his Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling from Long Island University. He served as a sergeant in the United States Marine Corps. Prior to being elected to public office, Councilman Vann taught at PS 256, JHS 35, and JHS 271 in Brooklyn, NY.

Councilman Vann served in the New York State Assembly from 1974–2001. Throughout these years, he continually and fervently represented the needs of his constituents. As Chairman of the New York State Black & Puerto Rican Caucus, he worked to prevent racial gerrymandering of the New York City Council. In 1982 he filed a lawsuit that increased the representation of communities of color—this landmark victory led to the creation of two additional Congressional Districts, three additional State Senate Districts, and six additional State Assembly Districts that represented communities of color in New York State.

In 2001, Mr. Vann was elected to the New York City Council. He has done a tremendous job as Chair of the Council's Committee on Community Development, where he has addressed poverty, foreclosures, and predatory equity. While in the New York City Council, Councilman Vann founded the 36th Council District Katrina Relief Effort, the Black Brooklyn Empowerment Convention, and New York City Works, which strives to reduce the disproportionately high unemployment rate in Black and Latino communities.

Recognizing the importance of empowering residents to improve their communities, he created several taskforces including: Education Taskforce; Senior Taskforce; Community Safety Taskforce; Youth Taskforce; and the Coalition for the Improvement of Bedford-Stuyvesant. Through his leadership with the Council's HIV/AIDS Faith-Based Initiative, Councilman Vann has improved HIV/AIDS

prevention outreach throughout New York City. Councilman Vann's vision led to the co-naming of Fulton Street as Harriet Ross Tubman Avenue and New York State's recognition of Harriet Tubman Day.

Councilman Vann has truly been a trailblazer, whose positive influence will have an everlasting effect on the community. His record of achievement would not have been possible without the love and support of his wife, Mildred Vann, their four children and eight grandchildren. We thank his family for sharing him with us all. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Councilman Vann on his 30 years of outstanding service. For his commitment to the people of Brooklyn, he is worthy of the highest praise.

TRIBUTE TO JORDAN AND SYLVIA WEDLOWE

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation:

Whereas, the union of Jordan and Sylvia Wedlowe in Twiggs County, Georgia in the 1800's began the Wedlowe family lineage which has blessed us with descendants that have helped to shape our nation; and

Whereas, the Wedlowe Family has produced many well respected citizens and the patriarchs and matriarchs of the Wedlowe family are pillars of strength that have touched many throughout our nation, family members of the past and present; and

Whereas, in our beloved Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, we are honored to have members of the Wedlowe family for they are some of our most beloved citizens in our District; and

Whereas, family is one of the most honored and cherished institutions in the world, we take pride in knowing that families such as the Wedlowe family have set aside this time to fellowship with each other, honor one another and to pass along history to each other by meeting at this year's family reunion in DeKalb County, Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the Wedlowe family;

Now Therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim June 29, 2013 as Wedlowe Family Reunion Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 29th day of June, 2013.

IN MEMORY OF SEAN FRANKLIN SASSER

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sean Franklin Sasser. Sean was an educator and an activist, and dedicated his life to speaking out about HIV/AIDS. Sadly, Sean passed away on Au-

gust 7th, 2013 at the age of 44 after a short battle with Mesothelioma.

Sean was diagnosed with HIV in 1988 when he went to enlist in the Navy, and lived for 25 years with the disease. As a young black homosexual man living with HIV, Sean organized support for the HIV/AIDS community. He was active in Bay Positives, an organization established in 1990 as the first peer-run agency in the world for young people living with HIV/AIDS. In 1993, he was photographed by celebrated American photographer Annie Leibovitz as part of one of the first public awareness campaigns about HIV, organized by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

In 1993, Sean met Pedro Zamora, who gained fame as part of the cast of MTV Real World, San Francisco. Sean and Pedro's on-air relationship and marriage was thrown into the national spotlight, bringing international attention and putting a human face to the realities of HIV/AIDS. Though Sean's on-air presence was short, the impact of their televised relationship was great, and after Pedro's tragic death from AIDS at the age of 22, Sean went on to become an even greater advocate for the HIV/AIDS community.

Throughout his life, Sean travelled across the country to educate others about HIV/AIDS and living with the disease. He spoke at colleges, universities, and many organizations including the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, the Human Rights Campaign, Health Initiatives for Youth, and the AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth & Families. Sean was also a celebrated pastry chef, and just last May could be found making homemade ice cream at RIS restaurant in Washington D.C.

Mr. Speaker, this week we lost a great voice for the HIV/AIDS community. There are approximately 50,000 new HIV infections every year, and only through education, public awareness and community outreach can we prevent the spread of the HIV virus. Sean used his voice to bring attention to the HIV community, and as we pay tribute to his life, we must also continue his efforts. One day at a time, we move closer to an AIDS-free generation.

I offer my heartfelt condolences to Sean's family and his partner Michael. Undoubtedly, Sean touched the lives of countless friends and strangers alike. He leaves behind a legacy of activism, bravery, and service to the HIV community. He will be dearly missed.

HONORING THE COURAGEOUS ACTIONS OF SIX INDIVIDUALS

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courageous actions of four young individuals, and two members of the Aurora Police Department, Sergeants Dan Eppard and Rick Ahlgren. With great valor and heroism, all six individuals, including Sergeants Eppard and Ahlgren risked their lives to save those of others who were trapped in a dam while rafting on the Vermillion River near Oglesby, Illinois.

On June 28, 2013, a 45 year-old man and his 10 year-old son were rafting on the river

when they became trapped in a dam. After forty minutes had elapsed, four boys on a second raft came across the two individuals, and demonstrated immense bravery in attempting to rescue them. After successfully bringing the 10 year-old boy aboard the second raft, they unfortunately became caught in the damn, trapping all five boys. The 45 year-old man was able to escape the dam, swim to shore, and dial 9-1-1.

At this same time, off-duty Sergeants Eppard and Ahlgren were kayaking down the river, and in an act of great courage rescued all five boys, whose ages ranged from 10 to 14. Sgt. Eppard has a history of heroism, having once rescued a woman at the exact same dam in 2009.

The selfless heroism of these extraordinary people serves as an example to us all. These individuals put their own lives in harm's way for the well-being of others. While the 10 year-old boy was treated for hypothermia, no one else was injured in an event that could have ended in tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these brave individuals for their courageous acts and altruistic service.

IN CELEBRATION OF MRS. GRACIE G. SIMPSON'S 85TH BIRTHDAY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 9, 2013

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a beloved role model and gracious woman of faith, Mrs. Gracie G. Simpson. On Sunday, September 1, 2013, Mrs. Simpson was honored by her family and friends at a birthday celebration at the Howard Community Club in Macon, Georgia.

Gracie Mae Peck was born on August 29, 1928, in Macon, Georgia, to the late Willie B. Peck and the late Claire Mae Fulton. She was the second child, with one older sister, one younger sister, and two younger brothers, all of whom are now deceased.

Back in the days when she was young, many children did not have the opportunity to complete school and had to begin working at a young age. For 43 years of her life, Mrs. Simpson worked at Tom's Foods, Inc., known to many as "the candy company." However, she was able to return to school to take computer classes before retiring.

Mrs. Simpson was married to J. Z. Simpson, Sr., for 54 years until his death in October of 2008. She has three sons, Donald Gibson, Jr., Zebbie Simpson, and Michael Simpson, and one daughter, Jan Simpson Walker.

She has eight grandchildren: Donald, Eunice, Christen, Jerome, Marcus, Marvin, Keisha, and Kelicia. She also has six great-grandchildren: Grace, Hannah, Abigail, Katelynn, DJ, and Christian.

Mrs. Simpson has achieved numerous successes in her life, but none of this would have been possible without the love and support of her adoring family. Voted "Reigning Queen" at Pearl Stephens Village Senior Apartments, she enjoys fishing and going on walks. She loves spending time with her family and is a great cook. She makes a mean sweet potato pie and a delicious peach cobbler. She is full of life and spunk and her family knows very