

HONORING COUNCILWOMAN
MAXINE PARKER

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2013

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Birmingham City Council President Maxine Herring Parker who passed away on Tuesday November 12, 2013. I am deeply saddened by her passing but I am comforted in knowing that her rich legacy of diligent service will live through those she served in Birmingham City Council District 4.

Councilwoman Parker was the epitome of grace, class and firm yet gentle leadership. With her signature flower lapels to accentuate her immaculate appearance, this soft-spoken leader personified womanhood while serving as a great source of strength for her family and her community. In her presence, it was clear, that while she was a warm spirit, Councilwoman Parker was never afraid to fight for what she believed in.

This beloved advocate was first elected to represent Birmingham's District 4 in November 2005. She initially ran on a platform that focused on improving the quality of life for her constituents. But her contributions to the area were boundless. Throughout her eight-year tenure, Councilwoman Parker was best known for her advocacy for environmental justice on behalf of the Collegeville, Harriman Park, and Fairmont neighborhoods.

For decades, citizens in these areas were negatively impacted by industrial pollution. But it was the diligent efforts and leadership of Councilwoman Parker that led to government action. In 2011, as a result of her tireless advocacy, the Environmental Protection Agency began its first major intervention in the area. Today, the EPA continues environmental cleanup efforts in the area as a result of Councilwoman Parker's efforts to raise awareness on the environmental injustice suffered by her constituents.

Councilwoman Parker went on to receive national recognition for her work and the project was even referenced as an example of successful government and community partnerships at a national conference. In July she served as a presenter at the EPA's Community Involvement Training conference in Boston where she shared her story about the federal environmental cleanup project in her district.

Shortly before her untimely death, Councilwoman Parker was elected as Birmingham City Council President as she began her third term. Prior to her election to the council, she served for many years as Collegeville neighborhood president. She also served as the executive assistant to the President at Talladega College in Talladega, Alabama for 41 years. During her tenure at the college, she served under the administration of six presidents.

On behalf of our Nation and the residents of North Birmingham, I am honored to pay tribute to the life of this phenomenal woman. She was indeed one of the most passionate community servants of her time. Councilwoman Parker had a heart for the people and a courageous spirit that dared to believe in the power of fighting for what we believe in. Let us all commit to continuing her legacy by inher-

iting her sincere passion for caring for the needs of others. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life and legacy of Birmingham City Council President Maxine Herring Parker.

HONORING STATE
REPRESENTATIVE PHYLLIS POND

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2013

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my friend and colleague Congresswoman JACKIE WALORSKI, to pay tribute to State Representative Phyllis Pond of New Haven, Indiana. Rep. Pond was an outstanding Hoosier who represented both her district and Indiana with integrity, and sadly passed away on September 22, 2013 at the age of 82.

Rep. Pond began her service to our great state in 1978 when she was first elected to the Indiana General Assembly. A lifelong Hoosier who grew up on a farm and graduated from Warren High School, Ball State University, and Indiana State University, Rep. Pond was the longest-serving female state representative in the history of Indiana. She was also the first woman to earn her seat in the prestigious front row of the Statehouse Chamber. We, the female Members of the Indiana Congressional delegation, are especially grateful for her leadership and guidance that has helped shape our own careers in public service.

As members of the House Education and the Workforce and Armed Services Committees, we honor Rep. Pond for her outstanding work for both Hoosier students and servicemembers. As a former kindergarten teacher who taught students for 37 years, Rep. Pond worked tirelessly to ensure that our state's students received the best education and had access to exceptional opportunities.

Thanks to Rep. Pond, Hoosier K-3 classrooms have no more than eighteen students, creating a healthy learning environment where students receive the attention they need to excel in school. Rep. Pond strongly believed in recognizing our servicemembers and their families. During the holiday season, she was well known for sending cards and words of encouragement to Indiana's finest. Rep. Pond also sponsored legislation to give soldiers on active duty more time with their children.

We are proud that such an exceptional public servant, teacher, and stateswoman called the Hoosier State home, and we are honored to recognize her life's work today. Our deepest condolences and well wishes go out to George Pond, her husband of 62 years; her children, Douglas Pond of Indianapolis, Dr. William Pond of Fort Wayne, and Jean Grasmick of Zionville; grandchildren, Greg and Scott Pond, Joel Aiken, and Jennifer Knepp; and great grandchildren, Beatrice, Walker, and Eleanore. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

SUPPORT FOR THE EXPANSION OF
MEDICAID COVERAGE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the opportunity that my home state of Texas lost when it opted out of expanding Medicaid. Denying health care coverage to seniors, veterans, and low-income residents is unconscionable.

Texas has the most uninsured residents among the 24 states that refuse to expand Medicaid. At very little cost to the state itself, 1.5 million uninsured people could have health insurance coverage by now. However, Governor Rick Perry's refusal to expand Medicaid to 133 percent of the federal poverty line ultimately hurts our most vulnerable citizens.

Another adverse effect of choosing not to expand Medicaid falls on our neediest hospitals. Because of reductions in payments to safety-net hospitals, or disproportionate share hospitals (DSH), low-income patients suffer reduced access to care. With these reductions to hospitals, refusals to expand Medicaid, and cuts to Medicare subsidies, we are exposing our most susceptible patients to incredible risk.

If expanded in Texas, the Affordable Care Act would fully fund each state's coverage for the first three years. Over time, the federal government would continue to pay for no less than 90 percent of coverage for newly eligible individuals. This increase in spending is partially offset by the DSH payment reduction. However, in states that do not expand Medicaid, low-income residents who seek treatment at safety-net hospitals suffer.

Our veterans, seniors, and low-income residents are forced to miss the opportunity to have quality and affordable health insurance simply because of political posturing. I urge my colleagues and each state to support the expansion of Medicaid.

HONORING ANTHONY JONES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Anthony Jones. Anthony is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 59, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Anthony has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Anthony has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned 40 merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Anthony has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Anthony Jones for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL
IN ORLAND PARK FOR BEING
NAMED A NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON
SCHOOL

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2013

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate St. Michael School, an exemplary Catholic elementary school in Orland Park, Illinois, for receiving the prestigious 2013 U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon School Award.

In 1982, The Department of Education established the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program to recognize public and private schools boasting high or significantly improved achievement. The program's goal is to identify aspects of thriving American schools in order to replicate their success. I am proud that St. Michael School in Orland Park in my district has been honored as one of those exceptional schools.

Since first opening its doors in 1949, St. Michael has been serving the community of Orland Park by providing a diverse, challenging curriculum that emphasizes academics, moral values, and discipline. The mission of St. Michael School has always been to provide students with a learning environment that will reinforce the principles and values of Church, home, and community in an effort to prepare them for lifelong and responsible citizenship.

Today, St. Michael School offers programs from preschool through eighth grade and attracts students from Orland Park and surrounding communities, currently enrolling more than 600 students. As a proud graduate of Catholic schools, I understand the rigorous and engaging curriculum that emphasizes Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, Technology, Language Arts, and Religion. St. Michael's offers challenging educational experiences that foster success, promote unity, and respect the individuality of each student.

Last year I had the pleasure of visiting St. Michael School during Catholic Schools Week. I enjoyed touring the school and visiting with students, and I came away very impressed with the students, teachers, and administrators under the leadership of Principal Bernadette Cuttone. It made perfect sense to me when St. Michael's was chosen as one of only 50 private schools nationwide that received a National Blue Ribbon School Award. Everyone at the school and in the parish should be extremely proud.

Please join me in celebrating the accomplishments of St. Michael School and all the National Blue Ribbon award winners. Their pursuit of academic excellence is inspiring, and I hope that their success can serve as an inspiration for schools across the nation.

CONGRATULATING WQPT-TV IN
THE QUAD CITIES ON THEIR 30TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2013

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate WQPT-TV, the Quad-Cities PBS

station, on the occasion of their 30th Anniversary.

WQPT launched on Nov. 3, 1983 with only four hours of programming each weekday. With support from local leaders, including former Representative Lane Evans, area colleges and universities, and many dedicated volunteers, WQPT has grown into a station that provides excellent programs on its main and secondary channels 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. WQPT has formed a great partnership with Western Illinois University Quad-Cities, allowing staff to collaborate with students and faculty, speak regularly to classes and engage with the community. Additionally, as part of its educational mission, WQPT's "Ready to Learn Initiative" has donated 123,000 books to area students since 1995.

Before WQPT launched 30 years ago, the Quad-Cities area was the largest metro area in the country without a PBS station. WQPT still has one of the smallest staffs and budgets out of all stations in the Corporation for Public Broadcasting network, yet manages to provide locally relevant, award-winning programs for everyone in the region. These awards include an Emmy nomination, two CINE Golden Eagle Awards, the PBS Sterling Award and a Grassroots Advocacy Award from the National Friends of Public Broadcasting.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to congratulate WQPT-TV for reaching this milestone, and I thank them for their 30 years of service to our community.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE FOR-
TIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
PAYNE-PULLMAN SCHOOL OF
TRADE AND COMMERCE IN DE-
TROIT, MICHIGAN

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2013

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the staff, students and alumni of the Payne-Pulliam School of Trade and Commerce in Detroit as they gather to celebrate its Fortieth Anniversary of service to the community.

In 1973, Reverend Betty E. Pulliam and Ms. Freddie M. Lindsey-Payne recognized a growing need in their community—an educational institution whose focus was to provide its students with employment-ready knowledge and skills. In response to this need, Reverend Pulliam and Ms. Lindsey-Payne founded the Payne-Pulliam School which offered a business education in a small class with an individualized learning environment.

As the educational needs of the Greater Detroit community have changed over the last four decades, the Payne-Pulliam School has adapted to meet that demand. Today Payne-Pulliam offers its students assistance with GED preparation, job readiness education and personal development classes. The focus of its dedicated education professionals is to aid their students in their journey to rebuild themselves and their skills. As part of this commitment, Payne-Pulliam provides its students with extensive support in job placement, counseling and training. In 1997, the leadership of the Payne-Pulliam school furthered this commitment by partnering with Michigan Works and

the City of Detroit Employment and Training Department.

Each year, as part of its community outreach initiatives, the Payne-Pulliam School hosts its annual Door Opener's Awards event, where students, alumni, educators and community stakeholders come together to recognize individuals who have assisted the School in its mission to provide important education and skills development to the residents of the Greater Detroit region. It is fitting that in this milestone year for the Payne-Pulliam School its founders will be recognized as Door Openers—for their decades of dedication as professional educators and leaders in the endeavor to make education available to all the residents of Southeast Michigan. For both Reverend Pulliam and Ms. Lindsey-Payne, their commitment to education extends far beyond their work at their school as they have been leaders in many other community organizations that are working to increase the accessibility to education in the Greater Detroit region.

Mr. Speaker, access to a quality education is a central component in the continuing success of the Greater Detroit region and other communities across our nation. I congratulate Reverend Pulliam and Ms. Lindsey-Payne on this great milestone in the history of the Payne-Pulliam School of Trade and Commerce and I congratulate its staff, students and alumni on their continuing efforts to ensure that the future of Michigan remains bright.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR H.
RES. 402

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2013

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I join my fellow Co-Chairs of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, Reps. SANDY LEVIN and JIM GERLACH in rising today to support the passage of H. Res. 402, supporting the European aspirations of the people of the European Union's (EU) Eastern Partnership countries, and to express continued support for Ukraine as it moves closer to signing the EU Association Agreement.

In order for Ukraine to progress democratically and economically, it is imperative that the conditions of this agreement, as jointly initiated by the EU and Ukraine, are fully met—in law and in practice.

The critical November 28–29 Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius, Lithuania is quickly approaching, bringing with it the deadline for signing the Association Agreement. Accordingly, we urge the U.S. Department of State to advance all appropriate opportunities for cooperation with Ukraine to address the remaining required reforms, including electoral and rule of law reforms as well as issues related to selective justice, particularly the release of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. Along with the clear democratic and economic benefits, we believe these reforms, coupled with international monitoring and oversight, provide the best opportunity to ensure free and fair elections in Ukraine in 2015 and beyond.

Consistent with our support for H. Res. 402, we applaud the EU's progress—much of it