

President Allen served as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost at Iowa State University. President Allen has been a hard-working leader for UNI and the Cedar Valley community. Under President Allen's leadership, UNI has established priorities for increasing student achievement in undergraduate performance, and providing statewide leadership in Pre-K through 12 education.

Ben Allen led UNI through exciting and challenging times. I have always respected Ben's love for the University and his contributions to higher education at both UNI and Iowa State. I'm proud to call Ben my friend and I wish Ben and his wife Pat all the best in their future plans and endeavors.

**HONORING MR. MICHAEL HIGGINS
ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM CONGRESS**

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and some sadness that I rise to honor Mr. Michael R. Higgins, a Professional Staff Member of the Armed Services Committee, on the eve of his retirement.

For over forty years, Mike has dedicated himself to his country and the Armed Forces. He served in the United States Air Force for twenty years and retired as Lieutenant Colonel. For the next 23 years, it was our great fortune that he chose the Armed Services Committee as the home for his incredible talents.

Mike served 7 HASC chairmen and 8 subcommittee chairmen, helping to steer our committee through war and peace. His sage advice guided members out of the Cold War and through the sporadic conflicts of the 1990s, social changes both large and small, and a tough 11 years of war. For any analyst looking to answer the question, "How did the all-volunteer military survive those war years?", I would urge them to examine the contributions of Mike Higgins.

When the Pentagon struggled to attract quality recruits, Mike helped improve military recruiting and retention programs. When issues arose with outdated military pay and retirement policies, Mike modernized those systems. When the strains of combat brought in Wounded Warriors to rehabilitate, Mike helped guarantee attention to their needs.

Mike encountered an historic array of challenges to the Armed Forces. Some were structural, some were strategic, and some were social. But Mike's consummate professionalism, commitment to the military people that he loved, and perseverance in the face of the toughest political and policy debates helped us meet each issue with wisdom and experience. For that, I am grateful and in his debt.

His legacy is unmistakable. Whenever the military and Congress found themselves at odds, whenever there was a shared obstacle to overcome, and whenever a member of our committee —Republican or Democrat—needed advice or counsel, Mike was there.

Mike Higgins is a giant. He shaped the service of every man and woman of the Armed Forces over the last two decades. Every mili-

tary retiree, their survivors, and each military family benefited from Mike's commitment to them. Mike will cast a long shadow far beyond his retirement.

His humility is matched only by his intellect, his ability to listen and a fearsome ability to see to the heart of an issue. When oversight is your business, sharp eyes are your sword. And no sword was sharper than that of this modest, unassuming Airman, who served his country with the tenacity of a lion, yet would today be surprised that so much is being made of all that he accomplished. Thank you, Mike.

TRIBUTE TO THE SHAW VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY NUMBER ONE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable volunteer fire department in the Mississippi Delta.

The Shaw Volunteer Fire Company Number One was established on November 15, 1921 with Chas F. Hill as Fire Chief, R. V. Farmer as Assistant Chief, and N. L. Chapman as Captain and twenty firemen. Recently, the Shaw Volunteer Fire Department became a part of the Bolivar County Fire Department and is known as District 5. This has increased their service area to surrounding communities and they currently serve 4,000 residents.

Since its establishment, the Shaw Volunteer Fire Department has been a great benefit to the citizens of Shaw by saving many lives, businesses, and personal property. The fire department has been the first responders and rescuers at numerous incidents like automobile, school bus, and natural disasters.

The Shaw Volunteer Fire Department was one of the first departments to have female firefighters. Under the direction of its current Fire Chief, Timothy Caninco and Captain Bernice Boone and 12 firefighters, they have established the Shaw Fire Academy to educate and train youths and adults on fire safety. The fire department has received numerous outstanding performance certifications and awards.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the City of Shaw Volunteer Fire Department for its dedication to serving the citizens of Shaw and responding to call for help within the surrounding area.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TULSI GABBARD

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, on February 4, 2013, through February 6, 2013 I was unable to record my votes for rollcall No.31—No.38. Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 31: Yes—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 225.

Rollcall No. 32: Yes—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 297.

Rollcall No. 33: No—Ordering the Previous Question.

Rollcall No. 34: No—On Agreeing to the Resolution.

Rollcall No. 35: Yes—On Agreeing to the Takano Amendment.

Rollcall No. 36: Yes—On Agreeing to the Schrader Amendment.

Rollcall No. 37: Yes—On Motion to Recommit with Instructions.

Rollcall No. 38: Yes—On Passage.

HONORING THE HONOREES OF THE OXFORD HILLS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the recipients of the 2013 Annual Oxford Hills Chamber of Commerce Awards. Representing over 400 area businesses and organizations, the Oxford Hills Chamber has been instrumental in advocating for economic growth throughout the greater Oxford County region.

Each year, the Oxford Hills Chamber of Commerce honors local businesses, business leaders, and individuals who promote and advance a vital and healthy economic environment. These honorees embody the kind of entrepreneurship and resourcefulness which has helped the state to weather one of the harshest economic climates in American history.

This year's award recipients include Business of the Year, Oxford Casino; Employee of the Year, Steve Holbrook, teacher at Oxford Hills Christian Academy; Rising Star of the Year, ServiceMaster Fire and Water Restoration of Oxford. Additionally, the staff at Responsible Pet Care will receive the Community Service Award.

These recipients are among the best that Maine has to offer. Through their leadership and incredible commitment to their communities and to the region, Maine is a better place to live and to do business.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating the Oxford Hills Region Chamber of Commerce and these individuals on their outstanding service and achievement.

WASHINGTON FIRE COMPANY

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Washington Fire Company No. 1, which will celebrate 155 years of service to the Borough of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania and the surrounding counties.

The Washington Fire Company is one of the oldest operations of its kind still servicing Cumberland County. Named after our country's first president, the company was formally constituted on February 22nd, 1858. The town hall was used to house equipment and hold meetings until 1860, when a firehouse was built on East Main Street, a facility the Washington Fire Company still uses to this day.

The Washington Fire Company has been an important force against many historic fires in

the region. Members of their workforce were present at the Thomas Printing fire in 1903, the Grantham Aircraft Engine Works and the Updegraff's Bowling Alley fires in 1956, the Brandtsville Train Wreck in 1963, the Arch Street School fire in 1972, and the fire at Rakestraw's Ice Cream in 1991. They continue to put their lives on the line to protect the people of Cumberland County.

Mr. Speaker, for the last 155 years, the Washington Fire Company has acted as an important asset to the citizens of Mechanicsburg and the surrounding counties. Therefore, I commend the personnel who have faithfully worked to protect our community at this fire house.

HONORING THE TUTWILER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Tutwiler Volunteer Fire Department (Tutwiler VFD) located in Tutwiler, Mississippi. The department serves a population of 3,550 citizens.

The Tutwiler VFD is staffed by twelve volunteers tasked with the responsibility of saving lives and responding to emergencies. The staff consists of both full and part time volunteers. Some of the volunteers have been certified by the National Fire Protection Association and/or the State of Mississippi as a highly trained and qualified firefighter and first responder. Volunteer fire departments with trained firefighters are an invaluable asset to rural areas like Tutwiler.

The job of saving lives requires skill, a passion for life, and good equipment. Some of the volunteers work for more than one volunteer fire department because many communities are small and spread apart.

The Tutwiler VFD has a lot of territory to cover. They respond to calls from the Tallahatchie County Correctional Facility, the Tallahatchie County School District, and neighboring communities. The correctional facility is a 2800 bed facility, and the school district has a student body of over 800 students. When the Tutwiler VFD staff is not responding to calls, they engage in ongoing community outreach to educate citizens on fire safety measures and techniques.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Tutwiler Volunteer Fire Department for the work they are doing to save lives in the Mississippi Delta.

TRIBUTE TO DR. WILLIAM P. DIGGS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable theologian and dedicated community servant. Dr. William P. Diggs has retired after 50 years of leading Trinity Baptist Church in Florence, South Carolina. He has set a tremendous example of

stewardship and service for future generations to follow.

Dr. Diggs was born in Columbia, South Carolina, but grew up in Rock Hill. Always a dedicated student, he graduated from Morehouse College, earned a Master of Arts in Sociology from Atlanta University, a Master of Divinity from Colgate-Rochester Divinity School in Rochester, New York, and a Doctor of Ministry from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago.

Educational opportunities took him around the country, but Dr. Diggs longed to return home to South Carolina. Upon his return, he served as Pastor at Flat Rock Baptist Church in Clover, South Carolina, and Galilee Baptist Church in nearby York. In 1962, he truly found a home when he took the position as Pastor of Trinity Baptist Church where he remained until his retirement in December 2012.

During his half-century at Trinity, the church itself grew in size and influence. The improvements to the physical structure included a church manse, a complete renovation of the edifice, and the construction of a new education building. The church also purchased two buildings—Trinity Annex and the Old Seaboard Depot—and secured land for a new parking lot. A new addition which houses a pre-school; additional Sunday school classrooms; meeting rooms; and a fully-equipped kitchen was also built. And in 2010, the church purchased commercial property on North Dargan Street that includes barber shops, beauty salons and a restaurant.

The church's community influence also grew with its size. Dr. Diggs made education a priority and led Trinity Baptist Church to contribute nearly \$35,000 annually to higher education facilities. He also instituted a pre-school which is licensed by the State of South Carolina and has been recognized for its excellence. The church also organized a federally operated credit union, which has assets of almost three million dollars.

Dr. Diggs accomplished quite a lot at Trinity Baptist Church, but his contributions did not stop at the church's door. He served as an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Friendship, Benedict and Morris Colleges for a total of 24 years, and is a former Adjunct Professor at Francis Marion University. He is a sought after speaker having addressed students at Morehouse College, Morehouse School of Religion, Interdenominational Theological Center, Bishop College, the University of South Carolina, Winthrop University and Coker College, and many sermons at churches throughout the country.

He has also contributed his time and talents to other faith-based organizations; serving as Past President and Past Dean of the Congress of Christian Education, Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc., and Past Dean of the South Region. He is also a Past Moderator of the Pee Dee Baptist Association, and the Past Dean of the Pee Dee Baptist Workshop.

He has served as a member of the Boards of Trustees at Friendship College, Benedict College, and Morris Colleges, a member of the Boards of Directors at Morehouse School of Religion, the Interdenominational Theological Center, and as a board member of Nannie Helen Burroughs School, the Greater Florence Habitat for Humanity, and the Mayor's Human Relations Committee.

Dr. Diggs is a Life Member of the NAACP, and Past President of the Florence Branch.

He helped to organize the first "sit-in" demonstrations in South Carolina, which occurred on February 12, 1960 in Rock Hill.

Dr. Diggs is the recipient of numerous awards including the Order of the Palmetto in 1996, the highest civilian award given by the Governor of South Carolina. He was inducted into the South Carolina Black Hall of Fame in 1998 by 100 Black Men of South Carolina, Inc. and the United Black Fund. The Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce awarded him the Building Bridges Humanitarian Award in 2000. He is also the recipient of the Pee Dee Area Council Boy Scouts of America Whitney Young Award and the AARP Andrus Award for Community Service for the State of South Carolina among many other honors.

Dr. Diggs is married to the former Clotilda Daniels, and the couple has two children—Mary Lynne and William, Jr. (Lennette). They have one grandson, William IV.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in commanding Dr. William P. Diggs for his more than 50 years of service in the ministry. His ministry is a living example of Peter's admonition, "As each one has received a special gift, employs it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." I am proud to call Dr. Diggs a dear friend, and I wish him well in retirement.

HONORING SERGEANT FIRST CLASS LLOYD CLAUDE "L.C." RICE

HON. MICK MULVANEY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 25, 2013

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and mark the passing of Sergeant First Class L.C. Rice, one of my constituents, a highly decorated veteran, and a true servant of our nation.

SFC Rice was born in Greer, SC, in 1923, the son of the late Bunyon Clinton Rice and the late Tenie Jane Beaver Rice. L.C. Rice grew up during the Depression, so after completing the lower grades, he went to work. In January 1941, SFC Rice joined the Navy at the age of 17.

He was a machinist mate stationed on the USS Pennsylvania at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on the morning of December 7, 1941. His ship was in dry dock when it was attacked, and all weapons and ammunition had been removed. SFC Rice spent that day "which shall live in infamy" rescuing the wounded and collecting the dead.

Next, SFC Rice was sent on a secret mission to deliver the cruiser USS Milwaukee to the Russians. His family could not be told where he was, and he was gone for so long they believed him missing in action. Later, he was stationed on a ship off the coast of Normandy, which was torpedoed and sank beneath him. Although he was hit by shrapnel, he swam through the debris and made it to shore, rescuing others along the way. Once on land, L.C. was given a rifle and helped fight against the Nazis. During World War II, he served both in naval and ground combat in both the Pacific and the European theatres. SFC Rice also participated in the Pacific Island campaigns and was part of the atomic bomb tests at the Bikini Atoll in 1946. For his service to our nation, SFC Rice was awarded the Purple Heart.