

innovators who drive our economy forward. I am glad that the House has taken concrete steps to address this problem, and I expect improvements will be made to this bill as it continues through the legislative process.

HONORING COLLINS FUNERAL HOME

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Collins Funeral Home, Inc. in Jackson, Mississippi. This is the funeral service business for African-Americans which began in the 1880's. The business was Lyman and Harvey Undertakers at the corner of Pearl and Farish Streets. Lyman came from Vicksburg, Mississippi where he had also started a funeral home. He and Jack Harvey sold their business to G. F. Frazier who operated from 406 North Farish Street beginning in 1903. Records from this year forward are maintained by Collins Funeral Home.

In the late 1880's, Malachi Collins and E.W. Hall established a funeral service business, Hall and Collins Funeral Home was in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. This was the first funeral home owned by African-Americans to service the African-American population.

In 1924, as G. F. Frazier prepared to move from Jackson to Cleveland, Ohio, he sold his business to Malachi Collins and his wife Mary A. Collins. For many years, although owned exclusively by Mr. and Mrs. Collins, the company was known as Frazier and Collins Funeral Home. The Collins Burial Insurance Company was established in 1925.

In April, 1939, Mr. and Mrs. Collins moved the business from 406 North Farish across the street to 415 North Farish Street, its present location. Mr. Collins died later that year, and Mrs. Collins, along with a dedicated staff continued to operate the business.

Clarie Collins Harvey, the only child of Mary and Malachi Collins, joined her mother in management of the business in 1950. The Frazier name was dropped and the business became known as Collins Funeral Home, Inc. Mary A. Collins remained president and CEO until her death in 1970 when her daughter assumed these responsibilities.

Since Clarie C. Harvey had no children or siblings, she developed a close relationship with some of her many cousins. Two of them joined her in the business: Ralph E. Collins in 1963, and his sister, Annette Collins Rollins in 1973. They have owned and operated the Collins Funeral Home and Insurance Companies since Mrs. Harvey's death in 1995.

Collins Insurance Company was formed to offer burial insurance to people of color in the community at a time when standard life insurance was not available. Mrs. Harvey took this service a step further by offering to Collins' patrons a funeral service for these limited amounts. In an effort to meet the needs of our changing society, Collins now offers life insurance in face amounts up to \$5,000 and has continued the burial insurance allowing patrons the opportunity to upgrade. Prearrangements are also available for those who want to assure that their needs are met and to lighten the burden on loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Collins Funeral Home, Inc.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF DONNA WILLIAMS

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement, I would like to commend the recognition of the House to an individual who has had an immeasurable influence on the lives of young people in the Sixth District and the State of Alabama, Donna Griffin Williams.

One of my longest-serving staff members, Donna has devoted a large part of her working and volunteer life to creating opportunities to help young people achieve their dreams and to highlighting the many positive things that our students are doing in their schools and communities.

Donna's role as the Special Projects Coordinator in my district office has touched the lives of countless young people.

As a congressman, some of my proudest moments have come when I have met with young people who feel called to defend freedom and serve our country in the U.S. military. That is why a function of my office that I have always taken most seriously is the nomination of students to attend a Service Academy. Donna has expertly coordinated this process for me, and over the years it has been a privilege and an honor to have been of help to so many outstanding young people with high character and an abiding love for America.

Donna has also served as our local organizer for the annual Congressional Art Competition, which provides students with the opportunity to have their original artwork displayed at the U.S. Capitol. This competition attracts entries from schools across the Sixth District and is a public showcase for the positive accomplishments of our students.

Donna has also been a principal organizer of a program that brings great joy to my wife Linda and I during each Christmas season, the Holiday Card Call for Art. This program, run in cooperation with the University of Alabama at Birmingham, invites students with visual impairments to submit artwork for our annual Christmas card. The breadth of the creativity is inspiring and Donna has always worked to encourage an excellent level of participation by students and their schools.

Donna's concern for young people has extended beyond work to her civic and volunteer activities. She has provided service as President of the Alabama PTA Board of Directors, a National PTA Board Director, a member of the Mayor's Education Committee, past president of the Vestavia Hills City School Foundation, and member of the A+ Foundation Board. Donna's many other community contributions include her service on the Board of the American Village Citizenship Trust, VIP for United Cerebral Palsy, and her involvement with Leadership Vestavia Hills and Leadership Alabama.

Donna would be the first to say that she has been blessed with a supportive and loving family which includes her husband of 46 years, George, three grown children, and five grandchildren with a sixth soon on the way.

For her service to the residents of the Sixth District and especially the young people who will be the future leaders in our communities, Donna Williams is well-deserving of this recognition and I extend my heartfelt gratitude to her for her loyalty and friendship.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 630, I was unable to be present for H.R. 3521. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD B. NUGENT

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, due to inclement weather on December 10th, my flight was cancelled and I was unable to vote on H.R. 3521 Dept. of VA Major Medical Facility Lease and H.R. 1402 VA Expiring Authorities Extension. Had I been able to be present, I would have voted for both pieces of legislation. I applaud the passage of these resolutions which will positively benefit our nation's veterans.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES "SHACK" HARRIS, A BARRIER-BREAKING PIONEER IN THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my fellow colleagues Rep. JIM CLYBURN (SC-06), Rep. KAREN BASS (CA-37), Rep. CORRINE BROWN (FL-05), Rep. JOHN CONYERS (MI-13), Rep. ELIJAH CUMMINGS (MD-07), Rep. CHRIS COLLINS (NY-27), Rep. SUSAN DAVIS (CA-53), Rep. BRIAN HIGGINS (NY-26), Rep. JOHN LEWIS (GA-05), Rep. VANCE MCALLISTER (LA-05), Rep. GARY PETERS (MI-14), and Rep. JON RUNYAN (NJ-03) to pay tribute to James "Shack" Harris, in this year marking the fiftieth anniversary of the March on Washington. Like such pioneers as Paul Robeson, Joe Louis, and Jackie Robinson, James Harris applied his brilliant talent and steadfast determination as an athlete to advance the cause of racial equality in America.

James Harris was born and raised in Monroe, Louisiana, during some of the harshest years of segregation when a policy of "massive resistance" against court rulings and federal laws denied equal rights for Black citizens. Racial inequality pervaded football fields as much as buses, hotels and lunch counters in the South.

But the Reverend Nashall Harris, James' father, gave his son an appropriate nickname: "Shack," after the Old Testament's Meshach, one of the three ancient Jews who refused the

orders of a Babylonian tyrant to bow down and worship his golden idol. Like his namesake, James Harris would not submit to an unjust system.

From his early teens, he aspired to play quarterback in the National Football League—a position that no African American had ever been allowed to play for more than a handful of snaps. In setting this goal, Harris challenged bigotry, stereotypes and the status quo. At the time, it was taken as fact in both college and pro football that Black athletes did not possess the necessary intelligence, leadership, and character to play quarterback. Shack shattered the vile myth.

Inspired by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have A Dream" speech, Harris persisted in pursuing his own dream. After a record-setting career at Carroll High School in Monroe, he went to Grambling State University and was coached by the legendary Eddie Robinson. Coach Robinson shared James Harris's goal of breaking the color barrier at quarterback in the NFL. And Robinson had recruited him for that very reason.

James Harris had an illustrious career at Grambling. He led the Tigers to three conference titles, set numerous passing records, was selected MVP of the 1967 Orange Blossom Classic, and was chosen the nation's outstanding player in 1968 by the Washington Pigs Club. Despite these achievements, he was not invited to any post-season all-star games and he was not selected in the NFL draft until the eighth round.

James Harris did not give up. He would not be forced into changing positions to receiver or defensive back, as had so many promising African Americans before him. He was determined to play quarterback. Every night during training camp as a rookie, he called Eddie Robinson for advice and moral support.

He ultimately won the starting job, and opened the 1969 NFL season as the Buffalo Bills' starting quarterback. It was the first of many "firsts" in his career. During three pivotal years with the Los Angeles Rams in the mid-1970s, James Harris led the team twice to the NFC title game, led the conference twice in passing efficiency, was chosen MVP of the Pro Bowl, and was voted captain by his teammates.

From 1969 through 1977, Harris was virtually the only African American quarterback to be a starter. He endured hate mail and death threats. He also bore the hopes of an entire people. As Eddie Robinson had once told him: "You have to make it. Otherwise, people will say you sent us your best and he wasn't good enough."

By being much more than good enough, James Harris opened the door of opportunity for African American quarterbacks to follow, from Doug Williams and Warren Moon to Russell Wilson and Robert Griffin III.

But Harris' legacy did not end when he walked off the playing field. He went on to become a prominent NFL executive for the New York Jets, Baltimore Ravens, Jacksonville Jaguars, and currently the Detroit Lions. As such, Harris has helped to pave the way for other African American coaches and general managers whose success demonstrates the power and promise of diversity and inclusion.

So it is an honor to recognize and applaud the accomplishments of James Harris. Dr. King once called himself a "drum major for freedom." We might call James Harris, the

barrier-breaking quarterback, a field general for racial equality.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall votes 630–636. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall 630, "yes" on rollcall 631, "no" on rollcall 632, "yes" on rollcall 633, "yes" on rollcall 634, "yes" on rollcall 635, and "yes" on rollcall 636.

RECOGNIZING SCOTT NISHIOKI

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Scott Nishioki, who has served as a valued member of my staff for the past nine years. Scott joined my staff during the beginning of my first term in Congress, and he has made a real difference. This month, Scott will be leaving my staff to find other ways to serve our nation beyond the walls of Congress. Scott's years of service to the people of Central California, spanning from Kern County to Merced County, deserve to be commended.

A Sanger native, Scott grew up in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley and graduated from Sanger High School before becoming a Bulldog at California State University, Fresno. He earned his Bachelor's degree in 1976, and shortly thereafter began to pursue a career in public service that led him from California to Washington, DC.

In his 31 years in Washington, Scott has done it all. As an aide to Congressman Rick Lehman (D-Fresno), Scott wrote the Truth in Savings Act, legislation that protects consumers and encourages healthy financial savings. Following his service with Congressman Lehman, Scott held a number of important positions within the telecommunications industry, the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the American Bankers Association. As a result of his years of service, Scott understands and appreciates the inner workings of this city better than anyone else.

Scott's true value is his ability to focus on what really matters. Spending a lifetime in DC can sometimes leave you blinded by partisanship, ambition, or money, but Scott has never forgotten why he left his home and moved to Washington in the first place. He moved here to solve problems and make a difference for the people of the San Joaquin Valley and the nation. And, that is exactly what he has done.

In addition to his legislative achievements, Scott made a difference by mentoring every member of my staff and several others both on and off Capitol Hill. For years, Scott has calmly helped my staff navigate personal and professional pressures. Together our staff has achieved a great deal both as members of Team Costa and in their professional lives after their service in my office.

Michael Doyle, reporter in the Washington bureau of McClatchy newspapers, may have

said it best: "Scott hits the trifecta. He's smart, candid and funny. I have always been able to trust his insight and his judgment. I will miss him; Congress will be a lesser place without him."

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and pride that I recognize Mr. Nishioki today for his many contributions to not only my Congressional office, but the entirety of the San Joaquin Valley. He is truly a son of the Valley, and the place we both call home is better for his many years of service. It has truly been an honor to work with him over the years and I wish him the best of luck in his next adventure.

IN HONOR OF THE 15TH ANNUAL MONTEREY COWBOY POETRY AND MUSIC FESTIVAL

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 15th Annual Monterey Cowboy Poetry and Music Festival. The Monterey Cowboy Poetry and Music Festival is a non-profit organization composed of a group of volunteers who love cowboy poetry, western music, cowboy movies and western art and gear. The volunteers work tirelessly to bring us the, "Cowboy Way of Life" and its most talented musicians, poets and artisans to our region. I have a short poem by Monterey County resident, Wendy Brichnan, to read which captures the essence of this award-winning event.

A GLANCE AT THE MONTEREY COWBOY POETRY & MUSIC FESTIVAL

From the Land of the proud California Vaqueros
set in beautiful Monterey, the first capital of California

a modest festival has, for the past 15 years,
celebrated the legendary Cowboy Way.

Through cowboy poetry, through cowboy songs,
through cowboy crafts and artifacts of the past,

the Monterey Cowboy Poetry & Music Festival

has shared important values that all should recall.

Honesty, Integrity, Friendship and Loyalty
Courage, Hard Work, and Dedication.

Collaboration, Teamwork, and Honor.
The Cowboy Code of Ethics is one to admire.

Founded by former Monterey police chief,
Gary Brown

this special Cowboy Festival has shared
highlights

of the Western Heritage that Monterey County

residents remember with pride.

Mike Beck, Monterey native musician and
horse trainer

and visiting Western singers such as
Juni Fisher, Dave Stamey, Don Edwards
and others charm all ages with their prowess.

Their clever and moving songs celebrating
the

spirit of the cowboy and cowgirls—
through hundreds of years, and thousands of miles,

and spark our imagination and pride.

They bring the world of the cowboy alive
with imagery that tugs at our hearts and minds