

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

wide open spaces, shady oak trees, whispering pines and swaying grasses. The jingle of spurs, the soaring hawks, the creak of leather, the sound of hooves, the cattle grazing down the hillside along the trails the heat of the day and the cool of the night. Amazing cowboy poets such as Paul Zarzyski, Diane Tribitt and Jim and Karen Ross reach us deep inside with their talented and humorous views of life. We see through their eyes, their minds, and their souls.

Young poets and buckaroos come to the Festival and share their respect for cowboy lore, and adults step forward and recite their own memorable poems for all.

It wasn't that long ago that renowned artist Jo Mora walked in Monterey and lived with the cowboys and Native Americans throughout the land.

In his tradition, the Monterey Cowboy Festival looks to other multi-talented Western artists like Jack Swanson, Joelle Smith and many, many others who drew and painted and illustrated what came before them in the cowboy way of life.

Salinas saddle-maker G. S. Garcia's granddaughter steers this festival and allows us to admire the man whose saddle brought home the Gold Medal from the St. Louis World's Fair. And, artisans from around America journey west to Monterey to proudly display special Cowboy boots, jewelry, Navajo blankets and other symbols of our time-honored Western tradition.

The cowboy today is still seen on the slopes of Monterey County in rambling ranches that stretch over mountain tops. The festival honors our hard-working ranchers like the Violinis, Dorrances, and Pedrazzis, and others who work with grazing cattle, day in and day out.

And, training horses through their "Feel", a well-loved method developed by Monterey County's Bill Dorrance and carried on by Others, such as Marvin and Marguerite Roberts and Ray Hackworth revealing their unending respect for horses, also a part of the Monterey Cowboy Festival. The Festival's Saturday Night Dance lets everyone kick up their heels in the popular Texas Swing tradition performed by the always spunky Carolyn Martin Band, bringing back lots of foot-stomping fun. Raising money for the Salvation Army through its famous Cowboy Church on Sunday morning, with featured performers singing songs of respect for all religions, a tradition that graces the Festival stage. And during the year, too, always loved by teachers and students, learning history the very best way through real live demonstrations.

The "Cowboys in the Schools" program Held each year and teaching so many local youth self esteem, history, cowboy culture and key values.

The three day festival draws to a close and

people meander out, sad that the time went to quickly, taking home special artifacts of the Cowboy Way. knowing they won't see some friends again until the next time. but recharged with another year of Monterey memories.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Monterey County Poetry and Music Festival on their 15th anniversary. The Monterey County Poetry and Music Festival always bring the finest western entertainment; cowboy poets, western music entertainers, fine cowboy art and gear to Monterey, the first capitol of Old California. I give a sweeping "Hats Off" on their 15th anniversary and wish them many more years of success.

HONORING IVER DELL ADAMS

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 a remarkable Unsung Hero, Mrs. Iver Dell Adams. Mrs. Adams is affectionately known by most in her community as "Mother Adams" and is a resident of Bolivar County.

Mrs. Adams currently serves as Assistant Superintendent of the Sunday School Department, President of Christian Women Council, Church Mother and Evangelist at Saint Mark Church of God in Christ in Mound Bayou, Mississippi. She also volunteers with other church auxiliaries at Saint Mark.

Mrs. Adams is a faithful Christian servant whose ministry has led her to feed and clothe thousands in the State of Connecticut. She and her husband Lonzie would use their own money to purchase food, school products, and often housed new and used clothing which were donated to assist others. They also, opened their home to a diverse population who was temporary without shelter. Mrs. Adams and her husband shared everything they had without any reservations. After her husband passed she moved to the Great State of Mississippi where she continues her service to others by assisting in raising four children whom she calls her own. These children never desire to leave her residence. Her love to see others "be all they can be" has led her to work hard and diligently for all those she comes in contact with. In her community she and her neighbors', young and old alike, enjoy their conversations and her words of encouragement.

Mrs. Adams has received numerous accolades and awards for her service to others.

Mrs. Adams has six children: three daughters: Virginia, Mamie, Geri and Betty (deceased) and two sons: Lonzie Jr. and Vastie. She and her husband instilled in their children to work hard and smart, to be an asset to society, assist the less fortunate by giving a hand to those who are in need, and to know that they don't have anything they cannot share with someone else.

Mrs. Adams is often invited to minister during various Christian events held throughout the county. She believes in prayer, and that all things are possible as long as you have God as your leader and choice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an unsung hero, Mrs. Iver Dell Adams, for her dedication in serving mankind.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE COALITION TO SALUTE AMERICA'S HEROES

HON. TULSI GABBARD

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, as President Calvin Coolidge said, "A nation that that forgets its defenders will soon be forgotten." I rise today to recognize the contributions of The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes, a group that recently invited me to participate in an event honoring the sacrifice and the service of our servicemembers. There, I had the privilege of meeting Corporal Donny Daughenbaugh, a Coalition spokesman who was severely injured during routine patrol in Iraq, as well as Sergeant Mary Herrera, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.), and Sergeant Jorge DeLeon, U.S. Army (Ret.). Herrera and DeLeon also were injured in the line of duty while serving our country overseas. Despite their injuries, these selfless heroes have weathered an extremely challenging recovery and are now using their own experience to help fellow veterans make the transition to civilian life. Like so many other veterans, their resilience and love of country endures after they return home and begin to face these tremendous challenges.

The event focused on the growing, serious challenges facing young veterans, particularly, homelessness, which is fast becoming a crisis among female combat veterans. These veterans, who step up to serve and are willing to make the ultimate sacrifice to protect our nation, all too often don't have the support they need when they return home.

I have seen firsthand the overwhelming challenges our returning warriors face in Hawai'i and across the nation. Tragically, more than 1,100 veterans in Hawai'i alone have experienced homelessness. While the overall number of homeless veterans is decreasing, homeless female veterans are the fastest-growing segment of the homeless population. Female veterans are also more likely to suffer post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and frequently have children who also suffer.

The Coalition, led by David Walker, is a national 501(c)(3), non-profit, non-partisan organization, established in 2004 to address the needs of severely wounded veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and their families. The organization provides emergency financial assistance and other support services to help them recover from their injuries, rebuild their lives, and successfully transition back into civilian life. In addition to its work to address homelessness, the Coalition's emergency aid services also aim to combat the troubling rates of suicide and domestic abuse among servicemembers and veterans.

This week in Orlando, Florida, the Coalition is hosting 100 combat-wounded veterans at its seventh annual Road to Recovery Conference and Tribute, a program that provides sessions on professional development, financial planning, and relationships.

Hawai'i has a proud tradition of military service to our nation, and is the grateful home