

TRIBUTE TO THE AMERICAN LEGION

HON. PAUL C. BROUN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the nation's largest wartime veterans service organization, the American Legion, which was chartered by Congress in 1919 on this date in history. Since then, it has grown to include more than 2.5 million members in over 14,000 American Legion posts worldwide, and its influence is invaluable.

The American Legion supports a variety of programs that benefit the communities in my home state of Georgia and those around the world. As a Marine and retired officer in the Naval Reserves, I am deeply grateful for the Legion's commitment to mentoring youth, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and encouraging continued devotion to fellow service members, veterans, and their families. Therefore, it is my honor to applaud the great work of the American Legion.

Furthermore, it is my privilege to recognize the Wesley Lee Farley American Legion Post 583 and Auxiliary in Eatonton, Georgia. Incorporated in 1952, Post 583 was first comprised of World War II and Korean War veterans, who built the post from the ground up, supported by donated material from the Eatonton community and unending fundraisers by the future Unit 583 Auxiliary. Today, the post proudly presents to qualified students the "Fannie Pearl Farley Scholarship." A charter member, Mrs. Farley served as the 69th Department of Georgia President, which is the highest office in the American Legion Auxiliary, and today she is still an active member of the post.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I express my sincere respect and support for the American Legion, dedicated to upholding the ideals of freedom and democracy, while working to make a difference in the lives of fellow Americans around the world.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF DEBBIE S. FRANK

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of this great institution and those who serve and work here to acknowledge and to express appreciation to one of our long-tenured House employees, Debbie Frank, who is retiring from the House following her twenty years of service as a Senior Employee Assistance Counselor with our Office of Employee Assistance (OEA).

Following the completion of her Master's Degree in Social Work at the University of Pennsylvania and the initiation of her career in New Jersey with the Employee Assistance Programs (EAPs) at Cooper Medical Center and New Jersey Transit, Debbie joined the OEA staff in 1994, as the OEA and other non-legislative services transitioned from the Clerk

of the House to the newly created Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). Throughout her career with the House and the CAO organization, Debbie has worked tirelessly with managers and employees, whether it is the House, Congressional Budget Office or the United States Capitol Police, she has assisted them in addressing the myriad of personal challenges, mental health and addiction problems, and other behavioral and work-life balance issues that potentially impact the performance and productivity of our workforce. Whether Debbie was providing the OEA's critical assessment, referral and follow-up services to an employee in crisis, consulting with a Member or Chief of Staff on strategies to manage an employee's return to work following an absence for addictions treatment, facilitating a Member's annual staff retreat, or conducting a training session for the general House workforce, Debbie consistently brought compassion, competence, organizational insight, institutional sensitivity, and practical solutions to her work. Over the years, she also became a strong advocate for a mindfulness approach to building personal resiliency in dealing with the stresses of an employee's work life and those of his or her personal life—an approach that I've studied, advocated and personally practiced for years.

During her tenure with the OEA and the House, Debbie managed a number of key initiatives for the OEA, including the House Health and Wellness Fair, the Drug-free Workplace training, and the OEA's Disaster Response capability. Since its inception in 1994, Debbie also served as the OEA's field placement supervisor for graduate level social work students interning with the OEA and learning the fundamentals of employee assistance programming and service delivery in the workplace.

In addition to her day-to-day work with the employees, managers, and Members routinely seek out the services and resources of the OEA to deal with the challenges presented when an employee's personal issues impact their performance or the effectiveness of the office, and Debbie has been on the front lines in providing support, assistance, guidance, and reassurance to the House community in the midst of some of the most troubling events of the past two decades. She was on-site in Oklahoma City working with House staffers following the Murrah Federal Building bombing in 1995. In 1998, she was part of the OEA team's response to the Capitol Police and House communities following the tragic fatal shooting of two Capitol Police officers in the Capitol Building. Following September 11th and the anthrax incident in October 2001, Debbie was also part of the CAO's communications effort, managed by the OEA and serving as the critical informational conduit to the House workforce throughout the six weeks that sections of the House campus were closed—keeping employees and families informed of the status of the remediation efforts and the staggered opening of offices and the availability of House services as sections of the House buildings were cleared for occupancy and resumption of operations. She served as the OEA's lead in working with the House response team following Hurricane Katrina in 2005. And she helped manage the OEA's immediate and ongoing response to the tragic shootings in Tucson in January 2011.

As Debbie departs the House and embarks on her retirement in Texas, I join the Chief Ad-

ministrative Officer, Ed Cassidy; the CAO's Chief Human Resource Officer, Jason Hite; and the entire OEA team—Bernard Beidel, Liz McBride-Chambers, Kristin Welsh-Simpson, and Margot Hawkins-Green—in wishing Debbie well and Godspeed. And I personally thank her on behalf of the many Members, employees and family members she has helped, assisted and supported over the past two decades. Well done, Debbie!

ACKNOWLEDGING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DONALD RIEGLE COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the 25th Anniversary of the Donald Riegle Community Service Awards. For the past 25 years the Flint Jewish Federation has utilized this event as a vehicle to recognize individuals in the Flint area who have displayed an exceptional commitment to community.

As Michigan's former senior United States Senator, Donald W. Riegle, Jr., retired after three terms in the U.S. Senate, and ten years of service in the U.S. House of Representatives. Throughout his federal legislative career, Senator Riegle served as a champion of Soviet Jewry. In addition, he co-sponsored major legislation pertaining to freedom of immigration issues and personally intervened with the leadership of the former Soviet Union on behalf of Jewish Refuseniks.

This year's award recipients, Debra Golden-Steinman, Philip Shultz and Ernelle Taylor, have worked hard to make our community a better place. The proceeds from the event will provide funding for the necessary acculturation of social programs, as well as the continuation of services, such as transportation, interpreters, meal services and citizenship preparation for Genesee County residents.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the Flint Jewish Federation for upholding the life, legacy and leadership of Senator Donald W. Riegle, Jr. and applaud them on this milestone celebration.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, on the Legislative Day of September 15, 2014, a series of votes was held. Had I been present for these rollcall votes, I would have cast the following votes: Rollcall 497—I vote "yea."

CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I rise to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month and

its 2014 theme, Hispanics: A legacy of history, a present of action, and a future of success. The people of the United States will once again celebrate the histories, cultures, and traditions of our Hispanic American brothers and sisters from September 15, 2014, through October 15, 2014.

Hispanic Heritage Month begins each year on September 15, the anniversary of the independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico and Chile observe their independence days on September 16 and September 18. Since its inception as National Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968, which later became National Hispanic Heritage Month in 1988, Americans have taken this time to not only pay tribute to the rich culture and traditions of Hispanic Americans, but also to reflect on the numerous contributions they have made that have led to improvements within their communities, and in turn, a better America.

Our nation's success is reliant upon the rich heritage and cultural diversity of its people. Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates the many Hispanic leaders and members of our communities who have added to the prosperity of the United States in every facet of society including medicine, business, arts and entertainment, sports, education, politics, and the military.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month. Throughout America's history, present, and future, the Hispanic community has played and continues to play a major role in enriching the quality of life and culture of our great nation, and for their outstanding contributions they are worthy of the highest praise.

HONORING MATTHEW BARMANN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Barmann. Matthew 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 419, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following remarks regarding my absence from votes which occurred on September 15, 2014. Listed below is how I would have voted if I had been present.

Roll Number 497—H.R. 5018—to establish the Law School Clinic Certification Program of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and for other purposes—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended—aye.

HONORING GEORGIA INDUSTRIES FOR THE BLIND

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize Georgia Industries for the Blind as they celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

Since the opening of its first manufacturing plant in 1949, Georgia Industries for the Blind has been creating, sustaining and improving employment opportunities for people who are blind. Georgia Industries for the Blind is part of the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency and operates from its corporate headquarters in Bainbridge, Georgia. They have operations in three other facilities in Georgia that collectively employ over 100 blind individuals. They are proof that a workplace should be welcoming to the talents of all people and should be a critical part of everyone's efforts to build an inclusive community and a strong economy.

Georgia Industries for the Blind has demonstrated the importance of raising awareness throughout the year about disability employment issues and to acknowledge the many and varied contributions of people with disabilities.

It is with great pride that I recognize the contributions of Georgia Industries for the Blind to the personal and economic independence of blind individuals not only during National Disability Employment Awareness Month, but throughout the entire year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, due to a change in floor schedule, I was unavoidably absent on Monday, September 15, 2014.

Had I been present I would have voted as follows: On rollcall No. 497, I would have voted "aye" (September 15) (H.R. 5108, To establish the Law School Clinic Certification Program of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and for other purposes (REP JEFFRIES)).

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF EL PASO BRANCH OF THE NAACP

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with Congresswoman BARBARA LEE of California, to honor and celebrate the 100th anniversary of the El Paso Branch of the NAACP.

Founded in 1914 by civil rights activist Dr. Lawrence Aaron Nixon, the El Paso Branch was the first branch of the NAACP established in the state of Texas. The El Paso Branch's long history is rich with examples of El Pasoans taking the lead to end discrimination in Texas.

In 1923, the Texas legislature passed a law which prohibited African-Americans from voting in Democratic primaries. On July 26, 1924, with the sponsorship of the NAACP, Dr. Nixon took his poll-tax receipt to a Democratic primary polling place and was refused a ballot. Thus began a twenty-year struggle in which Dr. Nixon and his El Paso attorney, Fred C. Knollenberg, twice carried their case to the United States Supreme Court. It was not until the landmark decision in *Smith v. Allwright* ended the white primary that the way was cleared, and on July 22, 1944, Dr. and Mrs. Nixon walked into the same El Paso voting place and voted in a Democratic primary.

In 1955, the El Paso Branch sought to challenge the segregation clause contained within the state constitution. The NAACP asked Thelma White, valedictorian of segregated Douglass High School in El Paso, to challenge the law. With the assistance of the NAACP, she submitted her application to Texas Western College (now the University of Texas at El Paso). Texas Western returned Ms. White's application along with her unopened transcripts.

Ms. White's attorneys, including Thurgood Marshall, filed suit in federal district court in March 1955, claiming White's rights of equal access to an education had been violated. That summer, in anticipation of an adverse ruling from the court, the University of Texas (UT) Board of Regents voted to allow Texas Western to admit African-American students, while promising to investigate desegregating the main university in Austin at a later date. Ms. White's attorneys refused to abandon her suit, and on July 18th, Federal District Judge Robert E. Thomason issued a declaratory judgment on her behalf, permanently enjoining the UT system from denying her or any other African-American student the right to study at Texas Western. He further ordered all Texas universities to immediately desegregate. That fall, both Texas Western College and the main university in Austin admitted their first black students. In El Paso, twelve students gained admission to the school.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor the El Paso Branch of the NAACP and the extraordinary work they have done to make our community, the State of Texas and our country a more just world.