

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HONORABLE LAWRENCE M. LAWSON

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of the Honorable Lawrence M. Lawson and congratulate him on his recent retirement as Monmouth Vicinage Assignment Judge. Judge Lawson has served honorably, breaking barriers and serving as an example for younger generations.

Judge Lawson received his undergraduate degree at Bowie State College (now Bowie State University) and his Juris Doctor from The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law. Prior to enrolling at The Catholic University, Judge Lawson completed the Council in Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO) Program and earned a 3-year scholarship for law school.

Judge Lawson's judicial experience began after he graduated from law school. In 1972, he worked as a law clerk for the late Honorable Thomas L. Yaccarino in Monmouth County, and was the first black law clerk to work in the Freehold court house. He was nominated as a Monmouth County judge by Governor Tom Kean in 1987 and was appointed to Assignment Judge on April 15, 1993, serving as the first black assignment judge. Early in his career, Judge Lawson served in the Civil Division and the Criminal Division, eventually serving as the Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division. With this assignment, Judge Lawson became the first black judge of a division of the court system. Judge Lawson retired as Assignment Judge on September 1, 2014.

In addition to his judicial service, Judge Lawson worked for the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs State Office of Legal Services, held a general law practice in Asbury Park for 12 years, worked as the Asbury Park Municipal Prosecutor, the Neptune Township Board of Adjustment Attorney and served as a delegate at the 1980 Democratic National Convention and the 1984 Democratic National Convention for Ted Kennedy and Walter Mondale, respectively. Judge Lawson also served on the Neptune Township committee and was elected mayor in 1984, serving as the first black mayor of the township.

Judge Lawson is also an active member of his community. He has coached a midnight basketball team, volunteered as a mentor at Second Baptist Church and worked with the United Fellowship men's program. Through his background and community outreach, Judge Lawson has motivated the community's youth to strive for success.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Honorable Lawrence Lawson on his retirement and thanking him for his service. Judge Lawson dedicated nearly 30 years to the bench and his contributions and achievements are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF IZADELI "IZA" MONTALVO VÁZQUEZ

**HON. ALAN GRAYSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Izadeli "Iza" Montalvo Vázquez. Iza was born in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, and was raised in the town of Sabana Grande. From a very early age, she demonstrated a gift for poetry and by the age of seven, she wrote her first poem. Her love for writing was inherited from her uncle, Emilio Forestier Gregory, a lawyer and published poet in Puerto Rico.

Her parents, both public school teachers, encouraged her to get involved in the community. She started writing theatrical plays for her school to bring awareness to different topics and to raise funds for student clubs. In middle school, she founded the student's newspaper, "Eco Estudiantil." Iza was an honor student throughout her school years. At the age of 14, she started playing professional volleyball. In her senior year of high school, she was offered a scholarship to play for the InterAmerican University of Puerto Rico's volleyball team. The Puerto Rican Volleyball Federation also signed her to join Las Leonas de Ponce.

In college, Iza continued to follow her passion for writing by joining the José Gautier Benítez literature club, where she received numerous awards for her poetry. She also earned third place in a poetry competition where film director, Jacobo Morales, served as the judge.

In 1998, Iza moved to New York City. She continued her undergraduate studies at St. John's University in Queens, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism in 2001. During that time, she interned at Univisión 41 in New Jersey and at El Diario La Prensa, where she was hired to work as reporter. She has reported about the protests at the United Nations against the Navy's presence on the island of Vieques, protests in Times Square against the War in Iraq, the World Economic Forum, the aftermath of September 11th, Abner Louima and Amadou Diallo's police brutality cases, and dozens of homicides.

In 2004, Iza moved to Orlando to work as a reporter for El Nuevo Día Orlando, part of Puerto Rico's largest daily newspaper. Her work has been published in newspapers including Caribbean Business, El Nuevo Día in Puerto Rico, La Prensa in Panamá, La Opinión, La Raza and El Mensajero.

Iza has also worked as a reporter for The Ledger, a company owned at the time by The New York Times Regional Newspaper Group. There she covered immigration and other topics of interest to the Hispanic community. In Florida, Iza reported on the 2004 Atlantic Hurricane Season, the NBA's All-Star Game in Orlando, and the 2012 presidential and local elections, among other stories. Iza has conducted many interviews, including one with Jose Mélendez Pérez, the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol Protection Inspector at the Orlando International Airport who became a key national figure when he refused entry to a terrorist involved in planning the 9/11 attacks. As a TV producer, she arranged an exclusive

interview with Joseph Acaba, the first person of Puerto Rican heritage to be named as a NASA astronaut candidate.

Iza's professional experience also includes working as a producer for Univisión WVEN TV 26 in Altamonte Springs and as my press secretary during 2013. She has been a member of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists (NAHJ) since 2001, and she was recently named honorary godmother of the International Association of Writers and Poets (AIPEH). At age 39, Iza became the editor in chief of La Prensa, Central Florida's oldest Spanish language newspaper. La Prensa is owned by ImpreMedia, the leading Hispanic news and information company in the U.S.

I am happy to recognize Iza Montalvo Vázquez, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida community.

HONORING DR. TALMADGE WILLIAMS

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend Dr. Talmadge Williams. He was a man of consequence who forever strived to restore balance to the scales of justice, whether it was ensuring that our government committed to telling the full story, or making sure someone he knew had a fair shot at success. And he was my friend.

I am not exactly sure when our paths first crossed, but Talmadge had a way of growing on you. As a local elected official, particularly in my early years of service, I was out almost every night at a different event, connecting with communities and constituents I represented, first at City Hall in Alexandria and subsequently in Congress.

Somewhere among the meetings and events I saw Talmadge as a familiar face and in a short while we would seek each other out and discuss local issues of concern. His quiet demeanor and keen insight made him an indispensable ally and a trusted friend.

He always seemed to know more about a local issue than what was common knowledge, and in sharing it with me, he opened my eyes to a narrative and a perspective that was largely unknown.

It was more than just folklore; it was history that was still unwritten but needed to be. And, there was often a reason it went unrecorded and remained unwritten. It was part of a painful truth that too many, particularly those in power, found inconvenient or uncomfortable to acknowledge.

Well, Talmadge's sense of justice wouldn't let it stand and a great deal of his life was devoted to finding ways to tell the full story.

One monumental way he found to tell the full story was when he conceived the idea of building in Arlington The Black Heritage Museum. It was a vision I am pleased to be associated with through congressional legislation I helped pass that reserved a segment of the Navy Annex site for the future museum.

But, Talmadge was not one to pass up on other opportunities and I was proud to join with him in restoring the surviving slave quarters at Robert E. Lee's Arlington House. You

see, before Talmadge made it an issue, the Park Service was using the two surviving slave quarters as a storage facility, erasing the significance of these two buildings and the story of slavery at Arlington House.

It is not uncommon to find some of Virginia's historic plantations beautifully restored, but with all traces of its slave history removed, as if that peculiar institution never existed. We could not undo what these owners did to erase the vestiges of slavery from their grounds, but we were not going to let the National Park Service get away with it.

I made sure the Park Service had the funds and the instructions from Congress to restore the slave quarters.

Today, Talmadge's work is now on display at Arlington House. When Talmadge made his point, it had a lasting effect.

While I was on the Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee I made sure the history of the U.S. Capitol acknowledged the sweat and blood of the slaves who built it. Today, in the Capitol's new visitor center there is a memorial dedicated to the slaves who built the nation's house of democracy. For me, this memorial also honors my friend Talmadge Williams.

While we have faced some setbacks on acquiring the land for the Black Heritage Museum, I have no doubt it will be built.

You see, Talmadge is recruiting new allies in heaven to aid the cause. Though I am saddened by his death, I rejoice in knowing that Talmadge has transformed those around him directing us to a better, more just tomorrow.

He is a man who dared to make a difference, and I am so ever grateful I am among those he touched.

#### HONORING MS. CHERISSE MARSHALL

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable Entrepreneur Ms. Cherisse Marshall from Lexington, Mississippi.

Cherisse Marshall was born in Chicago, IL and at an early age her parents moved to Flint, Michigan along with her other five siblings. She was raised in Flint, MI where she attended school. After graduating from high school, she later attended Ferris State University where she studied journalism. After graduating from Ferris State University, she later entered into the corporate world in an administrative support role that would be the beginning of a long rewarding career in administration.

After a few years of working at home in Flint, MI, she decided to relocate to Atlanta, Georgia where she continued to tune and develop her administrative expertise.

As a detail-oriented, results-oriented professional, she has effectively utilized her diverse skills to benefit companies in the engineering, financial, insurance, information technology, and advertising industries. Throughout her corporate career that spans over 17 years, she has provided diverse administrative support in the areas of office administration, customer support, contract administration, problem reso-

lution, information technology, project management, as well as everyday administrative support.

She later relocated to Lexington, Mississippi where she created OfficeStar Administrative Consulting, LLC to provide the same administrative expertise to entrepreneurs and small businesses to help them focus on growing their business instead of worrying about everyday administrative tasks.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing entrepreneur for her dedication and service to her profession.

#### RECOGNIZING MR. BERNARD MAZZOCCHI ON HIS BIRTHDAY

#### HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to acknowledge the many contributions of Bucks County businessman and entrepreneur, Bernard Mazzocchi, on the occasion of his birthday. As an entrepreneur, he has developed small businesses and properties, and revitalized aging buildings that have added to the economy and the quality of life in the Lower Bucks County community. Additionally, he uses his energy and drive as a volunteer on the local level. In this way, Bernard Mazzocchi represents American enterprise at its best, having worked his way up the ladder to success and always willing to give back. With a generous spirit, he contributes the benefit of his experience to civic, educational and charitable causes. In so doing, he has set an example of what it means to be a successful businessman and a good neighbor. We wish him continued success with our appreciation for his good work. Happy birthday and many more.

#### THE OCCASION OF THE RETIREMENT OF MAJOR SARAI MARTIN

#### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major Sarai Martin on the occasion of his retirement after 22 years of service in the United States Army.

Major Martin's distinguished military career began as a Private at Fort Benning, Georgia when he was only 17 years old. He served assignments throughout the United States and abroad as an enlisted Soldier, Non-Commissioned Officer and Commissioned Officer as well as enduring deployments to both Bosnia and Iraq.

Throughout his career, Major Martin continued to improve himself and rise through the ranks. After earning a college degree, Major Martin was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. He served in positions as varied as Company Commander for an Ordinance Company, a Military Transition Team advisor in Iraq, and eventually rose to become the Mobilization Chief in the Logistics Division of the National Guard Bureau's G4 department.

We owe Major Martin a debt of gratitude for his selfless devotion and years of service to

our nation. It is my true honor and privilege to recognize Major Sarai Martin for his distinguished career, and I offer him my best wishes for continued good health and success in the years to come.

#### HONORABLE PATRICK J. ROMA

#### HON. BILL PASCRELL, Jr.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Patrick J. Roma who was celebrated in October for his retirement from judicial service by his friends, family, and coworkers. He retires after a long career in which he faithfully upheld New Jersey's Constitution.

The Honorable Patrick J. Roma received his undergraduate degree from Seton Hall University in 1971. He later received his law degree from Samford University's Cumberland School of Law in 1975 and his L.L.M. Degree from New York University School of Law in 1981.

Early in Judge Roma's legal career, he worked as the late Judge John J. Cariddi's Law Secretary in the Superior Court of New Jersey. Judge Roma then went on to work at Friedman, Pearlman & Roma, P.C. where he worked as an attorney for over two decades. During this time, he also served as Prosecutor for the Boroughs of Palisades Park, Fairview, Little Ferry, Saddle Brook, Haworth, and Leonia.

During his time as Partner at Friedman, Pearlman & Roma, P.C., Judge Roma was elected as Council President and Police Commissioner for the Borough of Palisades Park. He served from January 1985 through December 1987. Thereafter, Judge Roma was elected as New Jersey's District 38 General Assemblyman from 1988 through 1997 during which time he served as Assistant Minority Whip and Assistant Minority Leader.

As an Assemblyman, Judge Roma received a number of awards. He was awarded Legislator of the Year by Local 518 the Motor Vehicle Employees Union in 1993, and Shelter Our Sisters and the Italian American Police Society both in 1994, as well as, Man of the Year by New Jersey AFL-CIO in 1995 and Parole Officers Association in 1991.

Judge Roma received a Distinguished Service Award presented by Consul General Franco Mistretta, on behalf of the Italian Government, in recognition of his outstanding contribution and dedicated service to the Italian-American community from Ambassador Boris Biancheri, Ambassador of Italy to the United States.

Judge Roma was appointed in 1997 to the Superior Court of New Jersey by Governor Christie Todd Whitman and reappointed with tenure in 2003 by Governor James McGreevy. He has served on the bench in the Criminal Division of the Bergen Vicinage.

Having served alongside Judge Roma in the State Assembly, I know personally of his dedicated and hardworking nature. Judge Roma has made an outstanding mark on Bergen County with his compassionate nature and passion for upholding justice.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating