

HONORING GARIFUNA-AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize the 217th anniversary of the forcible transfer of the Garifuna people from St. Vincent to Central America, which is to be observed on April 12, 2014. Each year this day serves as an important reminder of the rich history and heritage that is an intrinsic part of this community, and of the history of the United States. This commemoration is the culmination of Garifuna-American Heritage Month, which celebrates the important and unique contributions of the Garifuna community to my home borough of the Bronx, to New York City, and to our nation as a whole.

The Garifuna community has a unique heritage, language, and culture. As descendants of West African slaves, Venezuelan Caribs and Arawaks, Garifuna community has long been an important part of several nations, including Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Nicaragua. The Garifuna people first arrived in New York City in the 1930s as part of the merchant marines, and their numbers quickly grew in several neighborhoods. The Garifuna people are now a long established part of the fabric of New York City, and of my district in the Bronx. Today, I am proud to be able to pay tribute to their history and their future.

Mr. Speaker, Garifuna-American Heritage Month celebrates the unique cultural contributions and ethnic pride this community has provided to the melting pot that is New York City. I am confident that this month will continue to exist as an important cultural landmark celebration for many years to come. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the significance of April 12th in the history of the Garifuna people, and in recognizing their contributions to New York City and to our nation.

HONORING MAINE'S PUBLIC
SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Maine's Public Safety Dispatchers for their essential service to our communities in times of emergency. Maine's public safety telecommunicators are committed to putting the safety and interests of the community before themselves, and I would like to commend them for their invaluable hard work and commitment to ensuring our safety.

These unsung heroes are our country's "unseen first responders." They are the men and women who answer the calls of those citizens asking for help with a promise that help is, in fact, on its way. We place our trust in these individuals every day of the year and rely on their knowledge and professionalism as they make critical decisions, obtain information, and quickly dispatch needed aid. Regardless of the call, they always answer with compassion,

persistence, and patience. As a result, their work is imperative to our country's citizens, police, fire and emergency medical assistance personnel.

They remain calm in times of crisis and helpful in times of hurting. Their voices guide a young mother through infant CPR, talk an accident victim out of going into shock, and provide comfort to those who have been harmed or injured as they wait for emergency personnel to arrive. Yet, they seldom witness the product of their good work because they do not see the young mother's face when her infant begins to breathe again or the accident victim's face as first responders come into sight. It is for these reasons that they deserve our special appreciation and recognition.

In addition to the services they directly provide to the general public, they also handle governmental communications related to forestry, conservation, highway safety, and natural disasters. This means that while most individuals seek shelter during a flood or blizzard, the public safety telecommunicators are at their posts ensuring that everyone in their communities, including the police officers and firefighters, return home safely.

These telecommunicators are selfless, skilled, and often overlooked. Their daily service to the public goes without due recognition by the many beneficiaries of their services. Today, I would like to take a moment and extend my deepest gratitude on behalf of the state of Maine and applaud them for their honorable service.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognition and appreciation of the many public safety telecommunicators of Maine.

HONORING THE EAST BAY RE-
GIONAL PARK DISTRICT'S 80TH
BIRTHDAY**HON. JERRY McNERNEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the East Bay Regional Park District (the District) for 80 years of creating beautiful parkland and open spaces in both Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. The District has over 114,000 acres, 65 parks and 1,200 miles of trails, which allow people to enjoy nature, outdoor recreation, and environmental education experiences.

Through its Healthy Parks, Healthy People Campaign, the District has worked to promote awareness of the parks, trails and events they offer to both counties. The District has always been forward thinking in planning how to manage and conserve our nation's resources while also providing the public with a variety of recreational activities.

East Bay Regional Parks has been a key participant in conservation for eighty years. The Park District has been created a master plan for the East Bay to preserve our resources through good management while also providing the public with a variety of recreation and outdoor activities.

I ask my colleagues to congratulate the East Bay Regional Parks on its 80th birthday and to recognize its invaluable contributions to our natural resources and our communities.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
CLEBURNE COUNTY 911**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today ask for the House's attention to honor the Cleburne County 911 for their outstanding service to the citizens of Cleburne County.

The second week of April is designated as National Public Safety Communicator Week. This is a time to honor the telecommunications personnel in the public safety community. The Cleburne County 911's mission states that they strive to provide effective public safety services through the appropriate dispatch of fire, police, medical, and rescue units with the least possible delay. They live up to this mission each and every day.

Like all of East Alabama's 911 public safety personnel, Cleburne County's Public Safety Communicators provide local citizens with an invaluable service. They offer peace of mind, and they provide the highest level of emergency communications service possible.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking the Public Safety Communicators at the Cleburne 911 for their dedication to protecting the citizens of Cleburne County.

HONORING IOWA ASSISTANT PRIN-
CIPAL OF THE YEAR RYAN
DAVIS**HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ryan Davis on being selected as the Iowa Assistant Principal of the year. Ryan serves as the assistant principal at Vinton-Shellsburg High School in my district. Ryan was selected because of his commitment to student success, his vision of student learning and his work with parents and the community.

Mr. Davis began his career as a science teacher in Minnesota. In 2008, he came to Vinton as the assistant principal and at-risk coordinator. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Iowa, his master's degree in educational leadership from Southwest State University and his certificate in education administration from Saint Mary's University.

Mr. Davis was selected for this award by a committee of Iowa assistant principals, and he is now a candidate for National Assistant Principal of the Year. Ryan has proven that he is a leader at his school and throughout the Vinton-Shellsburg community. I'm proud to call him a constituent, and congratulate him on all of his success.

TRIBUTE TO SHANE STARK

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Shane Stark of

Carrier Access in West Des Moines, Iowa, for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Shane in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Stark for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Shane on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

RECOGNIZING OAK LAWN COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL'S DRAMA TEAM

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Oak Lawn Community High School's Drama team for winning two state championship titles at the Illinois High School Association's Drama & Group Interpretation State finals.

On March 29th the drama team was in Springfield to compete at the Illinois High School Association Tournament. Oak Lawn was awarded first place in the drama finals for their performance of "The Normal Heart" by Larry Kramer. Cast members included Taylor Lindemann, Leonardo Quezada, Joe DeLaMora, Lauren Montesano, Danny Swanberg, Jonathan Cortez, Charlie Doria, Carl Seibel, Vaughn Smith, Josh Cash, with Riley Faille as the student director.

In addition to the first place in the drama final, Oak Lawn took first place in the group interpretation finals for their performance of "She Kill Monsters" by Qui Nguyen. Cast members include Laura Akouris, Erin Beland, Kaeley Clark, Cameron DeLaMora, Paul Harris, Valentina Lopez, Tina Maciaga, Joey Probst, Emily Salomone, Andrew Waterstraat, with Julia Bugaj as the student director.

This tremendous achievement is made possible through the hard work and enthusiasm of the students, and the dedicated guidance of their coaches. This tournament showcased the tremendous talent and dedication that is fostered in the Oak Lawn drama program.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding talent of the Oak Lawn Community High School's drama team, and to congratulate them on their winning performances.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF BERNICE HUDSON WASHINGTON

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to the life and legacy of Bernice Hudson Washington, a beloved public servant remembered for her extraordinary display of compassion and kindness as a life-long addiction and home service counselor in the city of Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Bernice Hudson Washington passed away on Sunday, April 6 at the age of 84. While I join the Tuscaloosa community in being deeply saddened by her passing, I know her legacy is one that will live on in the lives of those she touched through her work as a counselor.

Mrs. Washington was the proud mother of a daughter, Alice Page of Northport, grandmother of Sonja Henley and Vanraybern Thames and stepmother of Betty Dickerson.

After helping her brother to overcome alcohol addiction, Mrs. Washington was drawn into a lifelong career counseling and empowering those who suffer from addiction. She began her career as an addiction counselor in 1972 when she joined the inaugural staff at Indian Rivers Community Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center.

Mrs. Washington established the Insight Center, a center that offered preventive programs for alcoholics and drug addicts, in 1974. She directed the Insight Center until her retirement in October 1994. The Insight Center was dedicated in her honor on May 29, 1993, as the Bernice Hudson Washington Insight Center.

Mrs. Washington spent 20 years as a certified addiction counselor at the Insight Center. During this time, she expanded the concept of addiction treatment by helping the families of addicts to overcome the difficulties associated with addiction.

Mrs. Washington's opened her home to recovering addicts providing them with home-cooked meals and games of checkers and dominoes on the weekends.

Mrs. Washington also served as resident commissioner for the Tuscaloosa Housing Authority and provided invaluable counseling services to first-time homeowners. The housing authority dedicated a nine-house development for new homeowners in her honor in 2012 as the Bernice Hudson Washington Estates.

At the dedication ceremony for the Bernice Hudson Washington Estates, one of the new homeowners explained his admiration for Mrs. Washington to a local reporter, "She molded me and my mom, my thinking and the type of person that I am," he said. "If God can give me just a little bit of what she did to inspire people, I'll be so grateful."

Mrs. Washington best explained her motivation: "It meant a whole lot to me to be able to help give some of these folks that I work with a chance to have some of the stuff that I had," she told a local reporter. "Because we'd share what we had with others, we grew up doing that—sharing. So it meant a lot for me to just keep doing what my father was doing for others. That's all I know—to give."

Mrs. Washington has been described by family members and community leaders as a

true public servant with a contagious spirit who, through her actions, inspired those around her to serve others.

Mrs. Washington has made an indelible mark on the city of Tuscaloosa and the state of Alabama. Today, we pay tribute to her resolute dedication and concern for those who suffer from addiction and her extraordinary contributions to first-time homeowners.

On behalf of the 7th Congressional District, the State of Alabama and this nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Bernice Hudson Washington for her inspirational servant leadership. We are truly grateful for this extraordinary public servant.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF MR. CLARENCE ROSTAD

HON. PAUL C. BROWN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 100th birthday of Mr. Clarence Rostad of Big Timber, Montana. Clarence Rostad was born on April 28th, 1914, in Big Timber, Montana, to George and Susanna Rostad. Clarence and his ten siblings grew up on the East Fork of the lower Sweet Grass Creek and on the family's ranch on the Boulder River near McLeod. It was here that his love for ranching and farming truly developed.

Clarence attended school at Big Timber Grade School. After a few years of working on the ranch, he attended college classes at Montana State College. He also served his country in the United States Army. In 1946 he married his beloved wife Ruth, whom he shared 57 years on their ranch on the Boulder River. The two raised six children and regularly hosted their 14 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

Clarence loves his ranch on the river—but even more, he loves welcoming others to enjoy the beauty of the mountains and the blue-ribbon river surrounding his ranch. Clarence's desire to welcome strangers to the ranch resulted in having friends of multiple generations in the same family—all of whom have enjoyed the ranch and the company of Clarence's hospitality, as well as him serenading them with his harmonica.

One of Clarence's great loves in life, in addition to his family and ranching, is his love for God. As evidenced in his patience and love for his family and ranching, Clarence is a strong man of faith in his Lord Jesus Christ. As described by his family, his love of raising sheep and cattle has truly blessed him with the heart of the Good Shepherd.

Today, one of Clarence's greatest desires is to honor God through playing sacred music on his harmonica. Having learned to play his harmonica in the solitude of the foothills and mountains in the Boulder River valley, Clarence has the great ability to play complex tunes despite not having any formal music education. Clarence keeps his mind refreshed and his heart renewed by playing music of faith that expresses his love for God.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 100th birthday of Clarence, who has led an outstanding life dedicated to loving God, his family, and loving his neighbor as himself. I wish him many more joyful years of health and happiness.