

HONORING SGT. MARQUITA A.
GEORGE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 15, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a fellow Mississippian, and pay tribute to a soldier of The United States Air Force, Sgt. Marquita A. George of Sunflower County, Mississippi.

Sgt. George is the only child born to Terri and the stepdaughter of a former Navy man, Mr. Eddie Bentley, Jr. She is a native of Moorhead, MS. Sgt. George received her early education from the East Sunflower Elementary School and Gentry High School in Indianola, MS.

Sgt. George went on to pursue higher education at Alcorn State University and Mississippi State University, but put her pursuit on hold to answer a burning desire. She had to enlist in the military. She knew she could kill two birds with one stone. Sgt. George enlisted in The United States Air Force.

August 5, 2005, Sgt. George attended Basic Military Training in San Antonio, TX. After graduating basic training, she went to Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, MS and studied at the Technical School for Information Management (TSIM) learning about computers. After graduating TSIM she was transferred to Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, AL. At Maxwell Air Force Base she was able to put her computer education to work by becoming scheduling technician, personnel liaison, and a computer technician for student officers from Majors to Lieutenant Colonels. While at Maxwell Air Force, Sgt. George also earned her Associate's Degree in Information Management from the Community College of the Air Force.

Sgt. George has been deployed three times overseas. Her tours include Kirkuk, Iraq; Baghdad, Iraq; and Al Udeid Qatar. While on deployment in Baghdad she was decorated with the Joint Commendation Medal. This medal was for a joint special secret service mission with The United States Navy, The United States Marines, and The United States Army to locate Sadaam Hussein.

Sgt. George is currently a Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC) of the Official Mail Center at Little Rock Air Force Base in Jacksonville, AR. On this assignment she is improving her supervision skills by supervising a great team of Airmen to operate the mail distribution center for the base; and we all know mail is highly important to soldiers many of whom are constantly deployed and mobile. The mail must follow without hiccups. She said her goal is to be the supervisor she never had to those under her authority and prepare for her next supervision assignment.

Ultimately, Sgt. George has her eye sight set on becoming a Master Sergeant to obtain the duty title as a First Sergeant. I am pleased to hear from Sgt. George that her loyalty to the United States is faithful and just so much that she decided to re-enlist for another six more years, after which she will have fourteen years dedicated to serving and protecting our country. I am thankful and grateful for the service she has given us. Thank you Sgt. George.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a rising soldier of our United States Air Force, Sgt. Marquita A. George.

MEGARA PULLEN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 15, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Megara Pullen for receiving the Greater Golden Chamber of Commerce Ambassador of the Year Award.

This award is given each year to an individual who is a member of the Chamber Ambassadors. This individual is active in promoting the Chamber in several ways including attending ribbon cuttings, grand openings, ground breakings, mentoring new Chamber members, attending Chamber functions, helping at the Chamber Back Yard BBQ, and the list goes on.

In addition to her job as Marketing Director for four Mahnke Auto Body locations, Megara is always available to take on the role of volunteer or leader. Her dedication to the Greater Golden Chamber makes her a real asset to the Golden community.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Megara Pullen for her well deserved recognition from the Greater Golden Chamber of Commerce. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE NAVAL AIR
STATION, PENSACOLA HEAD-
QUARTERS AS THE W.L. RICH-
ARDSON BUILDING 1500

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 15, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to commemorate the life of Walter Leroy "Dick" Richardson and recognize the Naval Air Station, Pensacola Headquarters as the W.L. Richardson Building 1500.

Walter Leroy Richardson was born August 21, 1889 in Princeton Depot, Massachusetts and was later married to Ethel Wilkerson. He enlisted as a Ship's Cook (4th class) in the U.S. Navy on November 1, 1911, where he served on the USS Mississippi. Having developed a passion for photography in his youth, Richardson was able to continue his hobby of photography on the USS Mississippi while it was anchored in Pensacola. During the Navy's first few weeks of aviation-related activities in Pensacola in 1914, Richardson often captured aviation activities on film, and the Navy recognized that his photographs were a valuable tool for training and documenting aircraft testing, accidents, and other activities. Before long, the Navy designated Richardson as the Navy's first official photographer. At the start of World War I, the Navy used photography for aerial reconnaissance, and Richardson was soon commissioned and charged with organizing the first Naval School of Photography.

Richardson is now known as the "Father of Naval Photography and Naval Aerial Photog-

raphers." He served as photographer aboard the USS Birmingham during the Mexican Intervention in 1914, and he also invented the first handheld oblique camera for aerial photography. Pushing the limits of what a camera in the air could do, he even survived a crash aboard the first U.S. Navy zeppelin, the USS Shenandoah in 1922. He subsequently was honorably discharged from military service on January 1, 1926. Walter Leroy Richardson passed away on June 14, 1945 and is interred at Fort Lincoln Cemetery, Washington D.C.

Walter Leroy Richardson's pioneering spirit and dedication to his craft and country make it an honor to dedicate Naval Air Station Building 1500 in Pensacola, Florida to his proud legacy. Building 1500 was built by the U.S. Army in 1939 and was later turned into a Naval School of Photography. The school was later renamed the Defense Photography School and relocated to Fort Meade, Maryland. Building 1500 was selected for renovation under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in 2010 and then designated as headquarters for Naval Air Station, Pensacola.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation, I stand here today to commend Walter Leroy "Dick" Richardson, his lasting impact on the United States Armed Forces, and the recognition of his legacy through the dedication of Building 1500 as the W.L. Richardson Building 1500 on board Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS
ADDRESSES UNEMPLOYMENT
BENEFITS

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 13, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, another week has passed while Republicans in Congress continue their blockade on the renewal of federal unemployment insurance. More than 1.5 million jobless Americans remain without unemployment insurance and another 72,000 hardworking men and women will be cut off with each additional week of inaction that passes by.

House Democrats have continued their push to hold a vote on extending emergency unemployment insurance. In fact, this is the third time that I join my colleagues in making sure that we renew our promise to the American people by demanding a simple vote on a three-month extension. Every day that we fail to act means more families will be left wondering how they will put food on the table or pay for basic goods as they seek employment.

Instead of devoting so much time in Congress trying to overturn the Affordable Care Act, House Republicans should reconsider the impact that allowing unemployment insurance to expire will have on the U.S. economy and American families. It is estimated that the lapse in unemployment coverage removed \$400 million out of state economies in just a single week, while failing to extend unemployment insurance will cost the U.S. economy 240,000 jobs this year.

Mr. Speaker, this is an issue of restoring economic security for millions of Americans and their families. I am truly disappointed to

see that the House Republican agenda for 2014 does not include renewing federal unemployment insurance. The long-term unemployed cannot wait on Congress to restore this critical support any longer, and I urge my Republican colleagues to act now.

PROFESSOR MICHAEL S. GREEN &
2013 EUGENE ASHER DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 15, 2014

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with pride and pleasure to congratulate Dr. Michael S. Green, professor of history at the College of Southern Nevada in Las Vegas, on his recent selection as the recipient of the American Historical Association's 2013 Eugene Asher Distinguished Teaching Award. The AHA, a leading professional organization dedicated to the study and teaching of history, awards this prize only once a year to recognize outstanding teaching and advocacy for history. This is the first time ever that this prestigious award has gone to a community college professor.

To quote Winston Churchill, "Study history, study history. In history lie all the secrets of statecraft." Professor Green is encouraging the young people of Southern Nevada to do just that—"study history, study history." Through his excellent teaching, he is cultivating the minds of tomorrow. Many of his former students are found today in public service and media positions throughout Nevada.

A graduate of the University of Nevada—Las Vegas and Columbia University, Dr. Green specializes in nineteenth century politics and the American West, and has published several books including, *Las Vegas: A Centennial History*, and dozens of articles in scholarly journals. He writes a regular column in several popular magazines and is often called upon to serve as a lecturer, guest speaker, and expert on Nevada history and politics. He is a researcher and consultant for the City of Las Vegas Mob Museum, and is currently writing a text book on Nevada history. A man of many talents, Dr. Green is also a specialist on President Lincoln, having authored several books focusing on Lincoln and the politics of the Civil War. He is currently editing a collection of essays focusing on Lincoln as well.

Nonetheless, while many academicians often prioritize research and publications over teaching, Michael Green's number one priority has always been his students. As one remarked, "Dr. Green loves his subject and it shows." I can think of no higher compliment, and I can imagine no one more deserving of this award. I commend Dr. Green for this distinction, and am proud to have him as a friend, a colleague, and a constituent. Only in District One.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 15, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,287,251,611,151.62. We've added \$6,660,374,562,238.54 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

BIRTHDAY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 15, 2014

Mr. CONYERS. I rise today to honor the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the man who so many year ago inspired me and challenged me to pursue a life in public service. His message of love, hope, and compassion ignited a Civil Rights Movement that changed the hearts of millions of Americans. His stirring rhetoric, his devotion to non-violence even in the face of grave danger, and his example of moral courage, breathed new life into the promises of freedom, equality, and justice that have always defined American democracy.

Today I remind my colleagues that the nation and world of which he dreamed of remains unrealized. We have eliminated the most invidious forms of Jim Crow, but racism still permeates far too much of our daily lives. We have made great strides in ensuring equal opportunity regardless of race, sex, or religion, but vast inequalities still exist. We have been stalled in our efforts to ensure that every American has the opportunity to grow through education, gain dignity through honest work, and receive equal treatment before the law. These are the struggles where we have failed to live up to the example set by Dr. King; these are the battles Dr. King would be fighting if he was still around to celebrate his 85th birthday.

Remember Dr. King, be thankful for the legacy he left behind, and consider what we can do to honor his memory.

Happy Birthday Dr. King. Happy Birthday to you.

COMMEMORATING 106TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 15, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 106th anniversary of the founding of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the first Greek-letter organization established by black college women in America.

This prestigious organization, founded at Howard University by nine visionary women in 1908, at a period when Jim Crow laws flourished in the law books, knew the rigors of their journey during the early 1900s. Those nine special women were: Anna Easter Brown, Beulah Burke, Lillie Burke, Marjorie Hill, Margaret Flagg Holmes, Ethel Hedgeman Lyle, Lavinia Norman, Lucy Slowe, and Marie Woolfolk Taylor.

The organization, which has grown to a sisterhood of more than 260,000 members in 975 chapters worldwide, includes an extraordinary collection of women, who now encompass diverse ethnicities and nationalities and are united by a bond of sisterhood and a commitment to service.

Alpha Kappa Alpha was founded to touch lives, improve the stature of women and serve humankind. Its mission is to develop leaders, expand educational and economic opportunity, and ensure that the Sorority is fully engaged in the civil life of the nation and each community in which it has a chapter.

Sojourner Truth once said, that "If women want any rights more than [they've] got, why don't they just take them and not be talking about it." This quote embodies the spirit that the determined women of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Alpha Kappa Alpha is home to college presidents, deans, directors of Fortune 500 companies, judges, mayors, Members of Congress, state legislatures, city councils, and school boards. This sorority has provided the foundation for intellectuals such as Sharon Pratt Kelly, the first woman to serve as mayor of Washington, D.C.; Angie Brookes, the first woman President of the United Nations; the long revered Rosa Parks, mother of the Civil Rights Movement; Azie Taylor Morton, the only African-American to hold the position of Treasurer of the United States; and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt.

Alpha Kappa Alpha women have served in the United States Armed Services and devoted their lives to saving ours. I salute those women today who are active or retired military personnel. They are the heroes that should be emulated by the next generation.

AKA's have long referred to founder Ethel Hedgeman Lyle as the "guiding light," a figurative phrase that emphasizes the central importance to AKA sisters of aptitude, resilience, unwavering service, and valor.

President George W. Bush, in his address at the 55th Inauguration, stated that:

Our nation relies on men and women who look after a neighbor and surround the lost with love. Americans, at our best, value the life we see in one another, and must always remember that even the unwanted have worth.

I am honored to commemorate this historic milestone and commemorate the 106th anniversary of the coming together of an amazing sisterhood, born of the passion for humanitarian service and educational excellence of nine extraordinary young women.

As a member of the Alpha Kappa Omega Graduate Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority in Houston, Texas, I take great pride in the fact that the legacy of the founders lives on in the work of the Omega Graduate Chapter under the leadership of Marianne Young Walker, Chapter President; and Jeanne Cherise Story, Chapter Treasurer.

Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter located in Houston, Texas is also the home chapter of: