

RECOGNIZING MR. SANTOSH
MADHAVAN

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize a Central Floridian, Mr. Santosh Madhavan, an Advanced Placement teacher at Lake Highland Preparatory School, for being selected as a member of the inaugural class of AP Advocacy Fellows.

The AP Advocacy Fellowship Program engages exceptional AP teachers who ensure that every student is provided access to opportunity. As part of the program, fellows participate in professional development training that focuses on media communication, government relations, and relevant state and federal legislation.

In this global economy, our economic prosperity depends on our ability to train a high-wage, high-tech workforce able to compete with countries around the world. In order to achieve these goals, we must build an education system that not only works to solve today's problems but also focuses on our nation's long term competitiveness.

It is a privilege to recognize Mr. Madhavan for his demonstrated excellence in education, and I thank him for his commitment to the students of Central Florida.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAJOR PATRICIA B. OVERTON FOR HER MILITARY SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP OF THE JROTC PROGRAM IN SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exemplary member of our community, Major Patricia Overton, for her dedicated service to our country and young people through her administration of the JROTC program. It is these outstanding qualities that have earned her recognition from the Lambda Rho Zeta Chapter of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

Major Overton, a graduate of the University of Tennessee and Webster University, was on active duty from 1981 to 2001 as a U.S. Army Officer. She is a member of Lomax Temple AME Zion Church, Detroit Federation of Teachers, American Federation of Teachers and the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She has received the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon and the Distinctive Silver Instructor award.

As an outstanding member of her community, Major Overton has benefited the JROTC program by serving as the Deputy Director for 17 high school JROTC programs and approximately 4,000 cadets. Her position includes coordinating formal inspections, developing standards for staff briefings, producing and editing summer camp newsletters, fostering relationships with TACOM/TARDEC for summer jobs for cadets, STEM tutoring for cadets and STEM instruction at JCLC. Major Overton also improves the lives of our youth by assisting

cadets with college and scholarship applications. One of her greatest contributions has been to establish sponsored visits to West Point for her exceptional 2nd and 3rd year JROTC cadets who demonstrated interest in a military career, which has led an average of acceptance for two of her cadets to West Point each year.

Major Overton has also established a National Forensic League-style forensics program for her LET IV cadets, providing them the opportunity to enhance their research, critical thinking, and public speaking skills, as well as their ability to be informed, engaged citizens of our society.

Mr. Speaker, Major Overton has dedicated her life to serving our country through active service and management of the JROTC. From helping ensuring JROTC operates as effectively as possible to making college a reality for many teenagers, she is a role model to the community and the epitome of an excellent leader. She has immensely improved the lives of many people through her service. I am pleased to honor Major Patricia Overton for her continuing accomplishments and service to the community.

SUPPORTING NORTH STOKES TO
SOFTBALL VICTORY

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, in sports, a strong support system can hold the key to success and that is what helped the North Stokes softball team defeat Whiteville 10-1 on Saturday to capture the North Carolina High School Athletic Association 1A state softball championship. I am proud to say that the Lady Vikings, who call the Sixth District of North Carolina home, won the title two games to one this past weekend.

Knowing the road to success can be a bumpy one, family, friends and other community members lined the streets with signs cheering on the softball team as they headed out for the championship in hopes that their spirit-filled send off would make the sailing a little smoother for the Lady Vikings.

The support of the community, however, was not the only helping hand for the team along their journey to the top. The Lady Vikings defense provided the squad with a much-needed edge. The outfield took charge by honing in on multiple drives to alleviate potential extra-base hits. "Our defense was awesome," Head Coach Jeff Frye told the Winston-Salem Journal. "I thought that played a bigger part in getting us pumped up. I think it just got momentum on our side."

"I'm just tickled," Vikings Pitcher Lindsay Brown told the Stokes News moments after the victory was secured. She had reason to be happy. Not only did she pitch the title-clinching game, she was also named the series' Most Valuable Player.

Coach Frye credits the team's success to their strong ability to face all obstacles. Besides MVP Brown, the team included Sabrina Dodson, Emily Evans, Tana Frye, Chandley Garner, Tristan Hubbard, Hannah Mabe, Hannah McBride, Emily Myers, Heather Nall, Emma Petree, Ashley Smith, and Carson Wat-

kins. The Vikings path to victory was aided by assistant coaches Barry Dodson, Rebecca Gunter, and Randy Shelton.

On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we congratulate Principal Nathan Rasey, Athletic Director Trey Wiggins, the faculty, staff, and students of North Stokes High for winning the 1A state softball championship. In the case of the Lady Vikings, they proved that a strong support system can lead to a championship.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM
"BILL" HARDACRE

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. William "Bill" Hardacre of Anderson, Indiana. He passed away on May 11, 2014, at the age of 82. A man of deep faith, Bill worked for decades toward the improvement of his city and country. He served both the United States and Anderson with integrity and honor.

A lifelong Hoosier and Anderson resident, Bill graduated from Anderson High School. He then earned a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from Indiana University. Upon completion of his degree, Bill served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War from 1952 through 1954.

Returning to Anderson, Bill joined the family business, Best Ever Dairy, as treasurer. During his 35-year career with the company, it grew from a local operation to a business serving central Indiana and beyond. After retiring, he continued his business ventures by developing both residential and commercial properties in Anderson and founding, E.V.I., an electric vehicle manufacturing firm now based in California.

Not only was Bill an accomplished businessman, he also played an exceptionally active role in the Anderson community. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church, where he was a lay leader for more than two decades. He also held leadership positions at the Christian Center, Fine Arts Center, Evening Exchange Club, the Harter House, and was a member of the board of trustees at Anderson University for 15 years.

Yet another example of Bill's dedication to the Anderson community was his work to save and restore the historic Paramount Theatre. Built in 1929, the Paramount was a major attraction for decades. A true architectural gem, its grandeur was a source of admiration and pride for the entire Anderson community. However, by 1989 the building had fallen into severe disrepair. Along with a group of community leaders, Bill formed the Paramount Theatre Heritage Foundation, saving the historic landmark from demolition and preserving its beauty for future generations. He then went on to serve as the Foundation's first President and was a member of the board of directors until his passing.

Bill Hardacre is an irreplaceable member of the Anderson community whose legacy will live on for generations to come. Without his tireless devotion, Anderson would not be the wonderful community it is today. He worked for a lifetime toward making his hometown a

more prosperous city. I will never forget my initial visit with Bill at the Toast Café or our talks at Lake Wawasee, discussing the issues facing Indiana's 5th Congressional District and beyond. I want to thank Bill's wife, Ann Hardacre, and the rest of his family for sharing Bill with myself and so many others. He touched our lives and served as a shining example for all those working to make a better life for future generations.

HONORING LISA AND ROB
PATCHEN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to formally recognize Lisa and Rob Patchen for their outstanding service and commitment to Beth El Synagogue in New Rochelle, New York.

Lisa is a past member of the Nursery School Board and, for several years, has led the synagogue's handprint tile fundraiser, the success of which is evident outside the Nursery School office.

Rob is in his second term as a member of the Board of Trustees, and just recently completed a two-year term as recording secretary. He has also served as the chairman of the Assistant Rabbi Search Committee, the Nominating Committee, Hazzan Search Committee, and is currently an active member of the Families Initiative Committee and the Youth Services Committee.

The pair will be honored by Beth El with the President's Ne'emanim Service Award for all they have done to support and serve their local Jewish community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Lisa and Rob Patchen for their service and commitment to Beth El Synagogue.

HONORING BIRMINGHAM FIRE AND
RESCUE CHIEF IVOR J. BROOKS

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and legacy of Birmingham Fire and Rescue Chief Ivor J. Brooks who passed away on Wednesday May 28. As we mourn his untimely passing, I am comforted in knowing that his legacy of exemplary public service will bring peace to those affected by this tremendous loss to the State of Alabama.

Chief Brooks was sworn into the Birmingham Fire and Rescue Service Department on May 3, 1982. His illustrious career as a first responder would span more than 30 years. Throughout his tenure, he distinguished himself as a servant leader who worked his way up the ranks of the department. He was appointed the 20th fire chief of the city of Birmingham on November 14, 2007 after 26 years on the job.

This nationally recognized first responder was trained at the National Fire Academy in Maryland and the U.S. Department of Justice

Weapons of Mass Destruction Training Facility of Incident Commanders. He also attended the Alabama Fire College, completed the Personnel Standards Commission, and the Fire Chief's Executive Development Program. Prior to being named fire chief, he served as Incident Commander for the State of Alabama.

During his time at the helm of Alabama's largest fire department, city leaders often commended Chief Brooks for his dedication to building and maintaining a fire department that Birmingham residents could be proud of. His responsible and practical leadership resulted in the revitalization and construction of various new firehouses throughout the city. I have fond memories of working closely with Chief Brooks to secure funding opportunities for improvement projects. He understood that the success of the 700 men and women he ably led was dependent upon securing resources and opportunities to support them in performing their duties.

Throughout his impactful lifetime, Chief Brooks also received numerous awards for his leadership and innovation in the field. But despite his celebrated career, his greatest achievement was his family and his dedication to his faith. Before his death, Chief Brooks served as a trustee on the board of the historic Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham. He was married to Joyce E. Brooks and was the father of four children; Ivon, Nyyah, Ivor, Jr. and Matthew and one grandchild, August Rayne Howell.

On behalf of a grateful nation and state, we salute this American treasure who was committed to protecting and serving the community that he loved. As we seek comfort in the aftermath of his untimely passing, we will forever remember Chief Brooks as an energetic and personable leader that was committed to obtaining the best results for his department. We salute Chief Brooks and pray for his family and his colleagues as we mourn the loss of this American hero. We honor his life and we thank him for his noble contributions to mankind. I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning the passing of Birmingham Fire and Rescue Chief Ivor J. Brooks.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 241, I was unable to vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

IN SUPPORT OF HOUSTON PRIDE
WEEK AND LGBT PRIDE MONTH

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate LGBT Pride Month and the remarkable progress that has been made in making our country more diverse and tolerant and embracing of differences in the 45 years since the infamous Stonewall Uprising in 1969 in New York City.

Our country made progress with the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," which I was proud to support. Our nation is now stronger and our people are safer thanks to the sacrifices made by these brave Americans, who no longer need to choose between service and silence.

There have been other changes for the better. In July 2011, President Obama and his administration concluded that a critical section of the Defense of Marriage Act is no longer constitutionally defensible. The Supreme Court agreed and on June 26, 2011, handed down the landmark decision in *United States v. Windsor*, 570 U.S. 12 (2013), which struck down Section 3 of DOMA because it violated the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment by treating relationships that had equal status under state law differently under federal law.

That decision accelerated the movement for marriage equality and today 19 states now recognize same-sex marriages.

Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 50th anniversary of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964, brilliantly shepherded to passage by one of the greatest Texans, President Johnson, which outlawed discrimination in public accommodations, education, and employment on the grounds of race, creed, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

The Civil Rights Act has made our country better.

I am pleased to report that progress is being made at the local level as well. Last month, the Houston City Council approved the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance, which extends the right to seek and hold employment, obtain housing, and enjoy public accommodations free from discrimination to all individuals in Houston without regard not just to sex, race, color, ethnicity, religion, national origin but also to age, familial status, marital status, military status, disability, sexual orientation, genetic information, gender identity or pregnancy.

The HERO Ordinance represents another giant step forward in our nation's and my city's continuing efforts to form a more perfect union. I believe the anti-discrimination protections Houstonians now enjoy should be extended to all persons in our country, which can be done this year were Congress to pass the Employee Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA).

Although more remains to be done to realize the full promise of America that all are equally treated and protected by the law but it is undeniable that America is closer to realizing that promise than it was during the dark days of Stonewall.

So there is much reason for joy and optimism when my home city of Houston celebrates Houston Pride Week later this month, from June 20–29.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, the 16th largest LGBT community in the nation is located in the Houston metropolitan area, which I am privileged to represent. This dynamic community is culturally diverse and economically and artistically vibrant.

Houston Pride Week has been an annual event for the last 35 years, since 1979, held to promote the individuality of Houston's ever-growing LGBT community. The Pride Festival and Parade are at the center of the Celebration and are annually attended by more than 400,000 people from Houston and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, progress is made through the efforts of courageous leaders who actively engage their communities and face adversity to