

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

ensure that the rights of all are clearly defined and protected.

People like the legendary Bayard Rustin, who organized the 1947 Journey of Reconciliation which inspired the Freedom Rides of the 1960s and helped Dr. King organize the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and who was the driving force behind the 1963 March on Washington.

Other members of the LGBT community whose contributions have made enriched American culture and made our country better include the great poet Langston Hughes; Billy Strayhorn the musician and gifted composer whose 30-year collaboration with Duke Ellington gave the world some of the greatest jazz music ever; and James Baldwin, one of the towering figures in the history of American literature.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to acknowledge the achievements of just a few of the countless number of Americans who overcame prejudice and discrimination America be a more welcoming place for succeeding generations of LGBT community members.

HONORING BARBARA AND JOEL RASCOFF

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Barbara and Joel Rascoff have been steadfast in their commitment to the New Rochelle community. The community is truly indebted to their selfless service and the legacy that they are continuing to build.

As part of the Young Israel of New Rochelle Community (YINR), Barbara and Joel have chaired numerous dinners and dinner journals, and Joel has even helped document shul events by serving as a photographer. Both Barbara and Joel are known for their kind and giving nature, making newcomers feel exceedingly welcome in the New Rochelle Jewish community. Their efforts were crucial in bringing Rabbi Reuven Fink to YINR.

Throughout their involvement with YINR, Joel served as both a member of the Board of Trustees and as Vice President of Fundraising, finding the time to help lead effort to raise crucial funds for YINR, whilst working as a respected nephrologist within the community.

Barbara became deeply involved in shul fundraising herself, including as an integral part of the dedicated and passionate team that successfully worked to retire the debt from the mezzanine loan on YINR's new building. Barbara was also an important voice within the committee established to investigate the shul's expansion, and was an important member of the mechitzah committee for the new sanctuary.

Together Barbara and Joel have been highly active in a variety of community projects, such as the New Rochelle Meals on Wheels Program, where Barbara continues to serve as a Vice President. Barbara has also had a life-long affiliation with AMIT, an organization that provides education and crucial social services to children in Israel. Barbara served for 22 years as a member of AMIT's board and as Chairwoman of the board of governors. AMIT works to positively impact the future of Israel,

one child at a time. It is clear both Barbara and Joel have embodied this creed, working with drive and boundless energy to impact the lives of individuals both at home and abroad.

Today, Barbara and Joel cherish their role as grandparents to their five beautiful grandchildren, and parents to their three sons and daughter-in-laws: Henry and Carina, Sammy and Lauren, and Matthew and Emily.

Their passion to help others has built lasting impressions both in New Rochelle and in Israel. Their service is an exemplary legacy, and one that has brought our community closer together. Barbara and Joel are deserving recipients of the Distinguished Leadership Award at Young Israel of New Rochelle's 47th Annual Dinner.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, May 30, 2014, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: on rollcall No. 270 "nay" and on rollcall No. 271, "yea."

SAMMIE MOSHENBERG: AN ACTIVIST FOR JUSTICE

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my deep gratitude to Sammie Moshenberg, who is retiring as Director of the Washington Operations of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW).

For more than 30 years, Sammie has represented NCJW in the halls of Congress, and she has been an influential advocate for economic and social justice. It is not just that Sammie herself is a powerful force—she is—but she also represents and coordinates NCJW's network of volunteers across the country. Through that role, Sammie is able to help NCJW members not just understand the legislative process but to show how they can mobilize to affect the outcomes and push for action on critical policy debates.

If there is a fight to improve the lives of children, eliminate discrimination and promote equal opportunities, end violence, or give women more control over their lives and their futures, Sammie Moshenberg is there. She is always eager to stand up what is just and what is necessary in order to end poverty, promote justice, and help women and families succeed. She embodies the Jewish creed of Tikkun Olam—repairing the world.

Sammie first came to NCJW in 1981, first working in the communications department in the New York headquarters. She came to the Washington office in 1983, where she has represented NCJW in dealing with all three branches of government and in coalitions working on judicial nominations, civil rights, reproductive rights, and economic justice issues. Sammie received her BA from Shimer College in Illinois and a master's degree from Loyola

University in Baltimore, Maryland. She continues to use the skills she learned there and as a former magazine editor and teacher to train members of Jewish and other faith groups, students, and advocates.

Anyone who has the good fortune of knowing Sammie knows she is much more interested in empowering people to participate in critical national debates and getting the job done than taking credit for her own actions. That is why she and NCJW are so committed to their "Promote the Vote, Protect the Vote" initiative. But Sammie herself has received a great deal of recognition for her efforts. Sammie has appeared on the "Forward Fifty" list of the most influential Jewish individuals three times. She has also been named one of Women's Enews "21 Leaders for the 21st Century" and received the YWCA of the National Capital Area's Racial Justice Award, the Ruth Osborn Award from the Women's Studies Program at George Washington University, and NCJW's Hannah G. Solomon Award.

As if her work at NCJW isn't enough, Sammie is an active member of her community—fighting for housing and economic justice issues in Alexandria, Virginia where she lives and working to expand access to health care and social justice in Cape Town, South Africa, where she and her husband have a second home.

As a Jewish woman, a lifetime member of NCJW, and a Member of Congress, I have relied on Sammie for her wisdom, her knowledge of the ways of Washington, her strategic sense of pushing for progress, and her friendship.

Sammie, I am so appreciative of your leadership and your passion for justice. I know that you will continue to use your many talents to improve your community, our nation and the world.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF LESLIE ARNOLD COLLINS

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Mr. COSTA, to recognize and honor the memory of Mr. Leslie Arnold Collins. As a veteran, a community leader, and philanthropist, Mr. Collins was a true pillar of the Hanford community. His presence in our community will be greatly missed, but the example by which he lived his life will not soon be forgotten.

Les was born in Danville, Illinois, on April 25, 1922. He was the fourth child born to his parents, William Howard Collins and Mable Arnold Collins. He met his wife, Alice Smith, while visiting his mother in New Mexico and soon married her on December 3, 1949. He and his wife traveled in 1960 to Hanford, California, where they raised three children. He had five grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild on the way. Les Collins passed away peacefully in his sleep at home on June 1, 2014, at the age of 92.

Les spent his life serving his country, family and his community. Les served as a combat medic in the Pacific Theater and helped liberate the Philippines during World War II. For