

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 kind and 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 mechtza 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

his valor, he was awarded numerous medals, including the Bronze Star.

His service to our nation did not end when he left the military, as he worked tirelessly to support veterans in his community. As a volunteer member of the Honor Flight Network, he raised funds to allow veterans to fly to Washington, D.C., to visit and reflect at the World War II memorial. He made the trip himself on his 91st birthday on April 25, 2013. In 2009, he was honored as the 30th Assembly District's Veteran of the Year.

As a lifetime member of the Optimist Club, Les embodied the organization's mission of "Bringing out the Best in Kids," by participating in many youth programs and being a positive role model for the young people in our area. In 1984, he was honored as the Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year. Throughout his years of living in Hanford, he was actively involved in various community projects, including being an avid supporter of the Boy Scouts and serving on the Eagle Scout review board. As a civic leader, he was a Hanford planning commissioner, a lifetime member of the Kings County Historical Society, and an election worker for 30 years. It is impossible to list all the contributions Mr. Collins made over his lifetime because there are simply too many to mention.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join Mr. COSTA and myself in honoring the memory of Mr. Les Collins. He was an inspiration for all, and he led a long life of serving both his country and community. We should all strive to leave such a significant imprint on our communities as Mr. Collins did during his lifetime.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEADERSHIP OSCEOLA COUNTY

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Leadership Osceola County as they celebrate their 25th anniversary.

Whereas, the mission of Community Vision is to bring people and resources together to achieve the vision of Osceola County as a progressive community that provides the highest quality of life to residents and visitors;

Whereas, Community Vision has worked very hard since its inception to succeed in its mission and to identify the role of individuals and organizations in achieving its vision;

Whereas, Community Vision has focused on key issues through positive projects, programs, and collaborative activities in order to bring the public and leadership together to move together toward shared community goals and objectives;

Whereas, Leadership Osceola County is an unsurpassed Community Vision leadership development program that began in 1989 and is now celebrating its 25th anniversary with more than 700 leaders graduating from the program after learning of community challenges firsthand and gaining the tools necessary to facilitate positive change within our community; and

Whereas, today, Community Vision remains focused on a shared vision for a better and

brighter Osceola County tomorrow by continuing to prepare, inspire, and support leadership for the good of the public;

Whereas, the United States Representative of Florida's Ninth Congressional District is honoring, recognizing and congratulating Leadership Osceola County on its 25th Anniversary.

Now, therefore, I, ALAN GRAYSON, U.S. Representative for Florida's Ninth Congressional District, congratulate Leadership Osceola County on its 25th Anniversary and hereby proclaim the week of June 8, 2014 as Leadership Osceola County Week in the Ninth Congressional District of Florida.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ROSE "ROXY" MARIE SANTIAGO

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Rose Marie Santiago. Originally from Old San Juan in Puerto Rico, Rose—or Roxy as she is known to her friends—has lived in Orlando for over 30 years. During this time she has been an active member of the Thornton Park community. She also recently started the popular dog sitting business, "Sit Stay Walk By Roxy," in Orlando.

From 2006 to 2009 Roxy was a Tri-Chair Federal Club Steering Committee member for Human Rights Campaign (HRC). Now she serves on the HRC's Social Media Steering Committee. When she is not campaigning and fundraising for social causes, Roxy repairs personal computers and is a keen practitioner of yoga. She also pours wine for Barefoot Wine's local events.

Earlier in her career, Roxy was employed by such prestigious companies as Disney, where she worked for ten years. Roxy undertook many high-profile responsibilities through her position as a Guest Relations Manager at Disney, and she even acted as a personal tour guide for more than one U.S. President.

Roxy was a partner with Phish Phest Entertainment for ten years. Throughout this time she was instrumental in the organization of a series of events which helped to raise over \$150,000 for various charities; the beneficiaries of these funds include Hope and Help Center of Central Florida, the HRC, and Libby's Legacy Breast Cancer Foundation. Phish Phest Entertainment also participated in various other charitable events including the Orlando Aids Walk, Smart-Ride, Come out with Pride, Headdress Ball, GayDays, Scooters 4 Hooters, and Score for Kore.

Roxy Santiago is extremely proud of what she has achieved both professionally and personally and continues to dedicate herself to these causes.

I am happy to honor Rose "Roxy" Marie Santiago, during LGBT Pride Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF VICKI NANTZ

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Vicki Nantz. Vicki graduated from Florida State University and began a career in broadcast television. She has produced and directed hundreds of hours of programming through her work for corporate-owned media companies and on projects with renowned talent like Michael Jackson, Tiger Woods and Cheryl Ladd. Although her projects were often rewarding and exciting, Vicki found most to be of little personal significance. Whether it was a talk show, newscast

or documentary, the subject matter never seemed to connect with her life.

In 2007, when a young man named Ryan Skipper was murdered in Central Florida simply because he was gay, Vicki felt that it was no longer acceptable to remain silent. She and her partner, Mary Meeks, began to speak publicly about anti-gay hatred. They also began making documentaries about LGBT people in order to put real faces on the issues of hate crimes, adoption, immigration and marriage. Their first documentary was about Ryan Skipper, how he was marginalized and brutalized by his community, how he was failed by his local, state and national governments, and how our anti-gay culture was complicit in his death. The documentary helped generate attention which led to national media coverage when Ryan's killers were tried, convicted and sentenced to life in prison. Acting as the Skipper family's spokesperson during the trial, Vicki was featured in numerous national television interviews which helped raise awareness about anti-gay hate crimes. After watching the documentary, Congresswoman DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ referenced Ryan's murder on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. In 2009 she invited Ryan's family to attend the White House signing of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

Another of Vicki's documentaries highlighted Florida's anti-gay adoption ban set out in a 33-year-old law which was ruled unconstitutional in 2010. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) utilized the documentary statewide to educate Floridians about the discriminatory law.

As a married couple, Vicki and Mary have continued to produce documentaries on social justice issues, each of which has screened at multiple film festivals and college campuses across the country. Their films have raised awareness about critical issues and helped inspire a new generation of activists. Vicki and Mary have continued to speak out in county chambers and legislative committee rooms, to advocate for long-overdue equality, and to try to change the culture of hatred so that LGBT people can live authentic lives without the fear of violence and intolerance. They do this on behalf of Ryan Skipper and his family.

I am happy to honor Vicki Nantz, during LGBT Pride Month, for her inspiring work to raise awareness about LGBT issues in Central Florida and around the country.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM CLAY HARRIS, JR.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding member of the Central Florida community, William Clay Harris, Jr., who passed away on June 2, 2014 at the age of 67. He went peacefully in his home in Gotha, Florida.

Born in Hobart, Oklahoma on June 24, 1946, to the late William Clay Harris, Sr. and Alice Annabel Harris William or "Bill" was the oldest of their four children. He is survived by his three siblings, James Leonard Harris, Joseph Robert Harris, and Rebecca Ann Kellogg. Bill had many fond memories of his early childhood, including the adventures of his beloved family dog, Casey. He developed a love of music in high school where learned to play the trumpet which he continued to play in college. He graduated from Hobart High in 1964 and began his studies at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. After two years, he enlisted in the United States Army where he was