

IN HONOR OF MR. COMMODORE CONYERS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.
OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding public servant, champion of education, man of God, and loving husband, father, grandfather and friend, Mr. Commodore Conyers. Mr. Conyers departed this life on Monday, August 17, 2015. A funeral service was held on Saturday, August 22, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia.

Commodore Conyers was born in Thomasville, Georgia and graduated from Douglas High School in 1949. He then continued his education at Savannah State College, now University, and graduated in 1958 with a bachelor degree in Industrial Education. His early passion for education motivated him to excel in his studies as he progressed to earn a master's degree from Valdosta State College, now University, and an L-6 degree in Administration and Supervision from Albany State College, also now University.

Yet, it was Mr. Conyers' services to his alma mater, Savannah State College, which remained near and dear to his heart for decades. He served as President of the Greater Albany Alumni Chapter of Savannah State and was selected as the Grand Marshal of the 2014 Homecoming Parade. He recently was chosen as the latest inductee into the Savannah State University Foundation Hall of Fame. This prestigious honor will allow his legacy to live on for years to come.

Mr. Conyers' scholastic repertoire, cultivated by his devotion to service and leadership, continued to flourish, as his achievements earned him numerous recognitions and commendations within the educational arena. In 1965, he was named by the State Director of Vocational Education to serve with vocational educators and students from five high schools across Georgia. In this role, he is credited with the major accomplishment of combining two of the state's youth organizations into one. After the successful merger, he was appointed State President of the Georgia American Vocational Association where he also helped merge the two state associations into one, before serving as Treasurer of the merged organization.

In 1983, Mr. Conyers was appointed by the late Georgia Governor George Busbee to serve on a Task Force to study the need for a third state board to oversee vocational education in Georgia. The Task Force indeed recommended a third board, which is in place today. Mr. Conyers also served numerous state and community boards and organizations, including the Board of Directors of the Georgia Teachers and Education Association, the Georgia Association of Educators, and the Georgia Retired Educators Association. He also served as Chairman and Board member of the Dougherty County Board of Elections and on the Water, Gas, and Light Board of Directors, as well as the Board of Directors for the Albany Civil Rights Institute.

Mr. Speaker, one of the many things that I will always remember and respect about Commodore Conyers is his unwavering passion for education, which made him a trailblazer in his community. During his tenure as the first black

Principal of Dougherty Comprehensive High School in Albany, Georgia, a position he held for eleven years, Mr. Conyers was named First Runner-up for State of Georgia Principal of the Year and was also named the State of Georgia Administrator of the Year by the Georgia Association of Educators. In 1997, he again broke barriers when he was named Director of Vocational and Technical Education for the Dougherty County School System, the first African American to serve in this role. Moreover, he started the first Boy Scout Troop for African-American youth in Vienna, Georgia and the first Cub Scout and Boy Scout Troops at Shiloh Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia.

In addition to the love and support of his late wife, Anne; their two children, Derrick, and Devetrice; and two grandchildren, Derrick and Ashley, Mr. Conyers relied on our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to guide him throughout his life. A member of Shiloh Baptist Church since 1961, he served as Superintendent of the Sunday School, Deacon and a Trustee, Chairman of the Facilities Committee, and numerous other positions.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, along with the more than 730,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District salute Mr. Commodore Conyers for his leadership in education and service to his community. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in extending our deepest sympathies to Mr. Conyers' family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time. We pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAINT MARY'S PARISH IN THE CITY OF GILROY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Congressman SAM FARR, to pay tribute to Saint Mary's Parish of the City of Gilroy. On August 15, 2015, the Parish celebrated a true milestone: its 150th Anniversary. Together we commend the Parish for its century and a half of service, fellowship, and leadership to the Gilroy community.

From its founding, Saint Mary's Parish has been at the heart of its Gilroy community. Founding Pastor Thomas J. Hudson built Saint Mary of the Assumption in the young southernmost town of Santa Clara County, Gilroy, in 1865. As the town grew into a city of 50,000 residents, Saint Mary's Parish expanded, adding its third building on its 100th Anniversary in 1965. The Parish has served as a point of gathering for people with diverse backgrounds and experiences. It has also been a home to hundreds of dedicated parishioners of Saint Mary's Parish who have served the residents of Gilroy.

Saint Mary's Parish has led and contributed to the spiritual and cultural life of Gilroy for many years through various cultural events, its local and international programs, and St. Mary School, staffed by the Sisters of the Presentation. The Parish's programs have included Saint Joseph Family Center, Lord's Table, Mexico Mission, various disaster and poverty

relief collections, and person-by-person counseling.

Through the years, Saint Mary's Parish has maintained strong and active social justice outreach within the community. The Parish has contributed to the lives of many individuals and families by extending its support to young families, immigrants, families of farm workers, and persons living with physical and mental disabilities. The Parish has also offered solace to the bereaved.

In addition to being attentive to the spiritual, cultural, and social justice needs of Gilroy community members, Saint Mary's Parish has been an important source of unity to our residents. The Parish has continued to focus its efforts on the betterment of our society by providing a spiritual home for our youth and promoting social justice and diversity in the City of Gilroy.

As Saint Mary's Parish of the City of Gilroy celebrates 150 years of service to the Gilroy community, we join the many friends and families wishing well to the Parish. On this day of honor and celebration, we do hereby recognize and commend Saint Mary's Parish on this milestone.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 75th Anniversary of the City of South Tucson, a community known for the resiliency, determination, and independence of its residents.

As a native of Tucson, Arizona, I am privileged to represent the City of South Tucson in the United States Congress. The support and loyalty I have received from the residents of South Tucson during my entire public life is a great honor for me personally.

Over 6,000 people and 300 businesses call the City of South Tucson home. This square mile city incorporated by its residents, rather than losing its identity to the City of Tucson, continues after 75 years to assert its independence and be the unique and proud community it has always been through its history.

South Tucson is about family and community, offering to the much larger metropolis of Tucson a view of our past and a dynamic view of what a community can do to retain its character while looking forward.

South Tucson boasts the best Mexican cuisine found anywhere; Las Artes, a model for integrating public art and education; and public services from the state of the art Sam Lena library to excellent public schools Ochoa and Mission View. South Tucson has a sophisticated network of social service providers and City of South Tucson first responders who place the safety of their residents first.

The greatest asset that the City of South Tucson has is its people, a diverse group representing Native-Americans, African-Americans, and Anglos, and families that have contributed so much to the region.

From South Tucson have come generations of political leaders, tradesmen, educators, decorated war veterans, business leaders, civil

leaders, and so many hardworking people whose dignity and determination better us all.

Like all small towns and cities in America, the City of South Tucson faces challenges, but the drive to meet those challenges and prosper for the next 75 years is without a doubt the city's future.

I wish to congratulate the Mayor and Council of the City of South Tucson and the residents of the city on its 75th anniversary. The commemoration ceremony on September 19, 2015 at the Music and Arts Festival will be a day in which we pause and acknowledge the history, achievements, and the future of the City of South Tucson. Congratulations to South Tucson.

IN MEMORY OF EDITH NORLE
MCMILLAN ROBERTS

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise to honor the life of my good friend, Edith Norle McMillan Roberts, who passed away on Saturday, August 15, 2015, in Antelope, California at the age of 96. Edith was not only a good friend of mine, but she was a friend to Sacramento—someone who spent her life dedicated to her family, education and public service.

Edith Norle McMillan Roberts was the widow of the late Tuskegee Airman George "Spanky" Roberts, Colonel, USAF (Retired), a member of the first graduating class of the Tuskegee Airmen in 1942. She was born on March 18, 1919, in Gilliam, West Virginia. While attending West Virginia State University (formerly West Virginia State College), she met George. She graduated in 1941 with a Bachelor's degree in music and French. While at college, she joined the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and the college choir. After graduation, she taught second through fifth grade, as well as the Boys' Glee Club, at Lakin Boys' Reformatory in Point Pleasant, West Virginia. Edith and George married on March 7, 1942, immediately following his graduation in the first class of Tuskegee Airmen.

Moving to Sacramento, California in 1965, George worked at McClellan Air Force Base where Edith directed the Military Wives' Choral Group and sang in the chapel choir. The pair retired to civilian life in 1968. The family attended St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church, where Edith, once again, took up the post of choir director until 1997.

Edith graduated in 1972 with her Master's Degree in social work from the Graduate School of Social Work at California State University, Sacramento. She worked for the Sacramento City Unified School District as a School Social Worker from 1972–1985, and was the first African-American Social Worker for the school district.

Edith did extensive work for the George S. "Spanky" Roberts Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. and founded the "Living History Team." She traveled the United States teaching adults and children about the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen and the many hardships they were dealt in life, from Jim Crow laws and segregation to her struggles of being a military wife.

Edith was always a strong advocate of education. The George S. "Spanky" Roberts Chapter will honor her memory by creating the Edith Roberts Scholarship Award in her name. Similarly, the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. national organization will create the George and Edith Roberts Scholarship award. These scholarships will help graduating seniors to follow their goals through higher education and beyond. Nothing made Edith happier than watching young people recognize and follow their dreams.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Edith Norle McMillan Roberts. She leaves a legacy that we should all aspire to follow. She is loved deeply and will be missed by many. I pray that her loving family, George Roberts, Jr., Lanelle Brent, Michalyn Green, and Leigh Roberts; six grandchildren, Richard Brent, Heather Mercer, Joshua Roberts, Margaret Green, Zachari Roberts, and Nathaniel Roberts; and three great-grandchildren, Kathryn Mercer, Grace Roberts and Lauren Mercer will find comfort in the fact that Edith provided so much love and service to those of us who had the honor to share in her life.

A TRIBUTE TO DICK MILLER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dick Miller of the Bluffs Arts Council for receiving an Iowa Governor's Volunteer Award.

Each year Iowa Governor Terry Branstad honors individuals who have exemplified exceptional commitment to their communities through various service related activities. Dick was granted this prestigious award as he has demonstrated his dedication to serving the Bluffs Arts Council as both a board member and volunteer. Dick's hard work and dedication to serving others truly embodies our Iowa values.

I applaud Dick for his commitment to service and giving back to the community. It is an honor to represent civic minded Iowans like him in the United States Congress. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating him for receiving this award and wish him nothing but continued success.

TRIBUTE TO DEPUTY DARREN GOFORTH OF THE HARRIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, LOVING HUSBAND, DEVOTED FATHER, AND DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sorrow but an abiding admiration that I rise today to acknowledge the life and service of Deputy Darren Goforth of Houston, Texas.

Deputy Darren Goforth, a ten year veteran of the Harris County Sheriff's office, died on

Friday, August 28, 2015, while refueling his patrol car.

He was shot fifteen times by a man who, by all accounts, never knew Darren Goforth and the light he brought into this world.

In a senseless act of violence, the love and care Darren Goforth gave to his wife, Kathleen and two young children, and the community he served, ended entirely too soon.

According to Kathleen Goforth her husband was an "intricate blend of toughness and gentility," a man who was fiercely loyal and always strived to do the right thing; a person "who you wanted for a friend, a colleague, and a neighbor."

May I add, Mr. Speaker, Darren Goforth was what we want in an American.

Mr. Speaker, Darren Goforth's life is a testament to the goodness in the American people, but his death is a reminder of many difficult and painful truths.

Foremost among these are the dangers the men and women of our nation's law enforcement departments face every time they walk their beats and patrol their communities.

Their families, the persons who know them best and love them most, deserve to welcome them home at the end of each shift, safe and sound.

Mr. Speaker, we must confront the reality that police departments and the communities they protect are all too often adversarial.

We must all work together—law enforcement, community residents, public officials—to make our communities places where we trust one another and cooperate to achieve our mutual goal of safety and security for all persons.

The murder of Deputy Goforth also reminds us that we must do more to stem the tide of gun violence that tears through this country.

Neither our country nor our hearts can afford to lose people of such quality as Darren Goforth to gun violence in the staggering quantities that we do.

Mr. Speaker, over 32,000 Americans die from gun violence each year.

So, while Darren Goforth's death is most certainly a tragedy, death by gun violence happens all too often in our country.

This normalcy of gun violence is inexcusable.

Mr. Speaker, according to media reports, the person who ended Deputy Goforth's wonderful life, struggled with mental illness for quite some time.

We absolutely have to do more to ensure that society's most dangerous weapons stay out of the hands of the most mentally or emotionally unstable persons.

It is important that we do this because it is estimated that 61.5 million Americans experience mental illness in a given year.

This is why we must, as a nation, attach as much importance and provide the same level of resources for mental health as we do for physical health.

We can no longer afford to ignore the struggles of nearly 20 percent of the population and fail to provide adequate treatment and services that could alleviate some of that struggle and prevent horrific events like the one that claimed the life of Deputy Darren Goforth.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today mourning the loss of Deputy Darren Goforth but I have hope.

I have hope that out of this tragedy we will be moved to act to make this country safer for the men and women who risk their lives to keep their communities safe.