

My thoughts and prayers remain with his wife, Linda, his children, and other family members and friends. They don't come any better than Bob Morton.

BICENTENNIAL OF ALLEN COUNTY, KENTUCKY

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bicentennial of Allen County, Kentucky, located in the First Congressional District. This momentous occasion not only celebrates the rich history of Allen County, but the many thousands of residents who over the years have made it a vibrant and thriving community.

Allen County was formed in 1815, the fifty-seventh county in the Commonwealth, and named in honor of Colonel John Allen, a hero of the War of 1812. Soldiers made their way into the hilly terrain of Allen County during the Civil War, and Dumont Hill, which currently serves as a park, remains a link to this past.

The area's largest source of tourism came about in 1964 when the Port Oliver Dam on the Barren River was completed, creating the 2,187-acre Barren River Lake State Resort Park. Aside from Barren River Lake, Allen County offers tourists a wide range of activities throughout the year. From summer concert series to one of the area's largest Christmas parades, Allen County boasts many active people and organizations and is always eager to showcase its recently revitalized downtown. Jacksonian Days, held in the fall, is a weekend street festival revolving around the old hotel, long rumored to have been a stop on President Andrew Jackson's commute to and from his home in Nashville to Washington, D.C.

This progressive community offers small-town hospitality with access to metropolitan amenities. It also has a thriving industrial base, including Halton Company and Sumitomo. Dollar General was founded in the area over 75 years ago and remains a leading employer today, along with the J.M. Smucker Company, whose plant produces in excess of one million sandwiches per day, making Allen County the largest peanut butter and jelly sandwich producer in the nation.

To commemorate the county's bicentennial, community leaders and residents of Allen County have planned several events to educate Kentuckians about the history of Allen County and celebrate its residents and culture. One such event was a one-act play entitled, "Allen County: A Work in Progress." The play featured familiar characters remembering the people, places, and events of Allen County's past. A free live concert was also held in July featuring Scottsville's own Sweetwater and starring country superstars Diamond Rio on the public square.

It is my privilege to represent Allen County in the U.S. House of Representatives and I hope my colleagues in Congress will join me in celebrating this community and its residents.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF JIM AND LEE VANOY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize my friends, Jim and Lee Vano, on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Jim and Lee met on a blind date in July of 1965 and less than six weeks later eloped and were married on August 26, 1965. Because of the Vietnam War draft rules, many couples were married on that date.

Together Jim and Lee raised two boys, Van and Ben. They are the proud grandparents of four grandchildren, Courtney, Taylor, Blake, and Alex.

The Vano family made their home in Opelika, Alabama, for the last 45 years. Jim is retired from the Uniroyal Tire plant and Lee, after serving many years as a church secretary, currently serves as the county voter registrar.

They enjoy Bible studies, doing home repair for the elderly, and traveling.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing this couple a very Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary.

HONORING THE 24TH ANNIVER- SARY OF MACEDONIAN INDE- PENDENCE

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Macedonian-American community in honor of their homeland's Independence Day. The people of the Republic of Macedonia voted on September 8, 1991, to officially gain independence from the former Yugoslavia. By voting for independence, the people decided that it was time for their country to forge its own path and to begin a new era in their history. This 24th anniversary of their independence provides us all an opportunity to recognize the Macedonian-American community's significant contributions within the United States.

Since 2001, Macedonia has been one of the staunchest allies of the United States in the War on Terror. Macedonia was the fourth and fifth largest contributor of troops, per capita, in the mission in Afghanistan. Macedonian troops guarded American troops at the compound in Kabul. And, Macedonia welcomed 50,000 and 400,000 refugees during the wars in Bosnia and Kosovo, respectively. For a country of little over two million, Macedonia has done its fair share and deserves to be in NATO. On that note, I ask that you join me, and 34 colleagues, in cosponsoring H. Res. 56 in support of Macedonia's NATO accession at the Warsaw Summit in 2016.

This month will also mark the 20th year of full diplomatic relations between the United States and Macedonia. With American support, Macedonia has become a model of stability in a region known for ethnic strife and

tension. Recently, Macedonia has been struck with the unprecedented refugee crisis facing Europe, as thousands of migrants and refugees have fled war-torn countries in the Middle East and North Africa. This year alone, an estimated 70,000 migrants have traveled through Macedonia, and the Macedonian government is attempting to organize an orderly response to the influx of people, including organizing daily trains to ferry migrants from the southern to the northern border. If the partnership between the United States and Macedonia is to remain strong, the country needs our continued support. I also use this opportunity to urge Macedonia's leaders to continue strengthening their institutions and reforming its democracy and rule of law.

As a way to recognize and strengthen this partnership, I started the first Congressional Caucus on Macedonia and Macedonian-Americans. This Caucus is a bipartisan group of members of Congress dedicated to maintaining and strengthening a positive and mutually beneficial relationship between the United States and the Republic of Macedonia, as well as advocating for the concerns and interests of the Macedonian community in the United States.

Michigan's 10th District has one of the largest populations of Macedonian-Americans in the Nation. Over Labor Day weekend, St. Mary Macedonian Orthodox Cathedral in Sterling Heights, Michigan hosted the 41st Annual American-Canadian Macedonian Orthodox Convention, bringing thousands of guests from throughout the U.S. and Canada to my District. I would like to acknowledge their contributions to our District and our State, and I look forward to continuing that relationship as we deal with the problems facing our great Nation.

Again, congratulations to all of Macedonian heritage for their achievements as we commemorate the anniversary of Macedonia's independence.

RECOGNIZING WAYNE WATTS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Wayne Watts, General Counsel and Senior Executive Vice President of AT&T. Mr. Watts served a total of 32 years at AT&T, starting as a rookie lawyer in the litigation department of what was then Southwestern Bell Telephone Company. As he enters retirement, it is fitting that this body honors Mr. Watts and his significant career that was embodied by his commitment to improving the Dallas community and beyond.

Mr. Watts was born in Abilene and raised in the blue-collar Dallas neighborhood of Oak Cliff. He went on to receive an undergraduate degree from the University of Texas-Arlington, and a Juris Doctorate from the Dedman School of Law at Southern Methodist University. Throughout his career, his affection for Dallas and all of its people only grew.

In his role at AT&T, Mr. Watts was directly involved in negotiating dozens of mergers and acquisitions with a combined value of nearly \$250 billion. These negotiations saw Southwestern Bell transform from the smallest of the

Baby Bell companies into AT&T, the world's largest communications business.

In addition to his professional successes, Mr. Watts was committed to enriching his community. He gained national fame for influencing law firms to hire and promote more women and minorities. He constantly pushed his legal staff of thousands of global lawyers to do more pro bono and public service work. In addition to being a member of the advisory boards of the SMU Dedman School of Law, the Salvation Army's Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex Command, and the Development Board at the University of Texas at Arlington, he serves on the board of Texas Access to Justice, a non-profit which provides funding for poor and indigent people who need legal services.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Watts' leadership has brought the business community and the greater community of Dallas and the United States resounding success. I recognize Mr. Watts as a great businessman, but more importantly, as a great American who devoted his career to expanding opportunities for others.

REMEMBERING CONGRESSMAN
LOUIS STOKES

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and service of a good friend, Congressman Louis Stokes. He was the voice of the people of Cleveland, Ohio in the House of Representatives for 30 years and will be missed by every person he touched. Although I never had the privilege of serving with Lou, he was a dear friend to my husband and they did much good work together on many critical issues, including civil rights. I will always remember him for his thoughtfulness, graciousness, and integrity.

Born on February 23, 1925 in Cleveland, Congressman Stokes revealed the true nature of his character at an early age when he started shining shoes and clerking at an Army/Navy store to supplement the income of his widowed mother. A man dedicated to public service, he served our nation honorably in the U.S. Army and continued his service when he returned home through working at the VA and Treasury Department offices in Cleveland. He

also made a name for himself as a civil rights lawyer while working for the Cleveland NAACP, and ran for Congress successfully in 1968.

In Congress, Lou was a strong voice for minorities and the disadvantaged. A founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congressman Stokes served as Chairman of the group for two consecutive terms beginning in 1972. Through his seat on the Appropriations Committee, Congressman Stokes advanced civil rights in this country by fighting against segregation and in support of affirmative action and fair housing. His legacy on these issues can still be felt today.

Congress would do good to follow the example that Congressman Stokes set for all of us—that what matters most in this body is that you put your head down, do what is right for your constituents, and vote your conscience. The thing I remember most about Lou is that he never forgot where he came from and always put the people of Cleveland first. My thoughts and prayers are with the Stokes family during this difficult time. It is my hope that all members of this Congress will be inspired by the great example that Congressman Louis Stokes set for all of us and by the contributions he made to this country.