

HONORING THE LIFE OF
EDWARD L. FIRE

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Edward L. Fire of Chagrin Falls, Ohio who passed away on Wednesday, July 1, 2015. Edward was the son of Frank and Pauline Fire. He was a 1954 graduate of Lowellville High School and attended Youngstown State University. Following his education, Edward served in the U.S. Navy shortly after graduation at age 17 in 1954 until 1958.

In addition to serving in the armed forces, Ed was an active force in labor. Ed's career as a union leader began in 1961 at Packard Electric in Warren, where he served in elected office for 40 plus years. His leadership roles included President of the 13,000 member IUE Local 717 at Delphi Packard, Vice President of the Ohio AFL-CIO, and Secretary-Treasurer of the 80,000 member IUE District 7, headquartered in Kettering, OH. Ed loved every aspect of his job helping people have good jobs with good pay. The highlights of his career included leading the Union's bargaining teams with major corporations, GM, GE, and Delphi. He led IUE's efforts in the merger with the CWA. He also led the Union's political action efforts, including being actively involved in the campaigns of Presidents Lyndon Johnson, Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton as well as Ohio Governor Dick Celeste, Senators John Glenn, Howard Metzenbaum and SHERROD BROWN.

He is survived by his wife Margaret Fire of Chagrin Falls, three sons Dino (Pamela) Fire of Jenson, MI, Patrick Fire of Myrtle Beach, SC and Ted (Melissa) Fire of Stow, MA, three granddaughters Morgan and Lina Fire and Capri (George) Kandris, two grandsons Sam and Jake Fire, a sister Jeanette Farley of Warren and several nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Charles Fire and four sisters Margaret Fire, Ida Marino, Rosemarie Whalen and Ann Fire.

There is no doubt that Ed's effort helped to improve the lives of countless workers in Northeastern Ohio, and across the country. I was deeply saddened to hear of his passing, but I am honored to pay tribute to such a selfless man.

RECOGNIZING THE INAUGURATION
OF DR. REBECCA CHOPP

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Rebecca Chopp on the occasion of her inauguration as the chancellor of the University of Denver. An advocate for education, inclusivity and community, Dr. Chopp brings decades of leadership experience and success to DU. As a first-generation college student, she understands the importance of access to college for all and the need to continue to mentor and nurture students for their success and that of their community.

After earning a BA from Kansas Wesleyan University and a Master of Divinity from St.

Paul School of Theology, Dr. Chopp went on to receive her PhD from the University of Chicago. She has received six honorary doctorates from additional institutions and distinguished awards from each of her alma maters. Dr. Chopp has served as dean at Yale Divinity School, as provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at Emory University, and as president of Swarthmore College and Colgate University. She is also a widely published author.

While at Swarthmore, Dr. Chopp was committed to admitting the most highly qualified students without regard to financial circumstances, and she supported innovative ways to build new, inclusive communities motivated to contributing to the common good. Though she took the reins during the middle of the Great Recession, she steered Swarthmore through this time without cutting faculty or financial aid. Dr. Chopp was the first woman to serve in several of her previous roles and is the first woman chancellor for DU. She is a true role model and trailblazer.

Dr. Chopp joined the University of Denver in September of last year as its 18th chancellor. Within her first 100 days she announced Imagine-DU, a community-wide effort that focused on transforming the student experience, expanding the design of knowledge, and engaging in new ways with the surrounding areas. Chancellor Chopp envisions the University of Denver as an institution capitalizing on the changes and opportunities that come of an institution invested in the 21st Century. In addition, she already has several new innovative projects including serving a more diverse student body and building the next generation of leaders with the establishment of the Latino Leadership Institute, addressing the needs of an aging population in the Knebel Center for the Study of Aging, and a new interdisciplinary approach to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) with the Daniel Felix Ritchie School of Engineering and Computer Science.

Dr. Chopp has been quoted as saying, "As in any university, the most important resource is its people." In her case, that could not be more true. She will be an invaluable resource to DU. Please join me in commending Dr. Rebecca Chopp for her continued commitment and passion for education and community. Her persistence and dedication are an inspiration to build a better future for all who live in Colorado.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF
THE 22ND ANNUAL PERSONAL
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM
THE HEALTHSOUTH REHABILITA-
TION HOSPITAL OF ALTOONA

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the winners of the 22nd annual Personal Achievement Award from the HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Altoona, given to encourage and reward those who have made an outstanding effort to deal with or overcome a disability. This year, I congratulate: Barbara Horne of Hollidaysburg, Larry Snyder of Hollidaysburg and Isaac Snowberger of Roaring Spring.

Barbara Horne is the recipient of a HealthSouth Personal Achievement Award. Barbara was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother until August 31, 2014, when tragically struck and changed her life forever. Barbara was diagnosed with an acute brain stem stroke which caused her to have garbled speech, double vision and limpness on her right side. Shortly thereafter, she developed a urinary tract infection. She was dialysis dependent and was given a small percentage of survival. With hard work, determination and assistance from her family, she overcame these obstacles. Barbara actually walked out of HealthSouth's facility at discharge on November 5, 2014, and now walks without the assist of a device. She's been able to return to her active lifestyle.

Larry Snyder is also the recipient of a Personal Achievement Award. On April 3, 2013 Larry sustained a life-changing injury to his dominant right hand when it was crushed between the couplings of two railroad cars. Larry underwent a total of 7 surgeries to repair vascular, skin, bone, nerve, and tendon damage sustained in the accident. Surgeons were able to save Larry's hand, but had to amputate his thumb. He also lost much of the sensation to his remaining fingers, leaving his hand essentially non-functional. Larry was a year away from retirement, after a lifetime of work in the local railroad shops, when he sustained this injury. With the help of his family and friends, he has fought discouragement by keeping an optimistic and cheerful attitude, and learned to make his left hand the dominant one.

Isaac Snowberger is also the recipient of a Personal Achievement Award. For Isaac and his family, June 21, 2015 will be a day they will never forget. Normally healthy and active, Isaac collapsed at home due to an arteriovenous malformation in the brain. His parents were able to revive him, and he was taken immediately to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh for surgery. Due to his injury, he had some weakness in his right side, balance issues, double vision and swallowing difficulties. But Isaac remained in good spirits and has made rapid progress in therapy. With his family's help, he is now walking well, and has achieved his main goals of returning to high school and participating in garden tractor pulling events.

Congratulations to Barbara, Larry and Isaac. Their accomplishments are a testament to us all that with hard work, persistence and a big heart, we can overcome any hardship. I honor each of them for their perseverance, and I wish them the best as they continue to overcome illnesses and disabilities while setting an example for the rest of the community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF ALICE THOMPSON

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Alice Marie Thompson, a civil rights icon and Freedom Rider, who passed away on August 24, 2015.

Alice was born on September 25, 1939, the sixth of eight children, born to Cora Mae Atlas and John Henry Thompson, Sr. and was the

granddaughter of Susie Lee and Louis Balfour Atlas, Sr. and Alice Piercey and Norah Thompson. In 1944, Alice and her family moved from Lake Providence to New Orleans' Ninth Ward. Alice attended Lockett, V.C. Jones, McCarthy, and Joseph S. Clark schools and graduated from George Washington Carver High School in 1959. She later attended and graduated from Southern University in New Orleans with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences. Alice worked for many years as a social worker until her retirement in 2002.

Between 1959 and 1960, Alice, and her sisters Jean and Shirley, became members of the Youth Council of the New Orleans branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The Thompson Sisters, as they famously became known, soon sought more direct action, and in 1960 joined the New Orleans chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) under the leadership of Rudy Lombard and later Oretha Castle Haley. Alice was active in countless pickets, sit-ins, and sit downs. She integrated a number of high-profile public places in the city, including McCrory's, Woolworths, the Loews Theater, and the City Hall Cafeteria.

In 1961, when the Interstate Commerce Commission outlawed segregation on buses, terminals, restrooms, restaurants, Alice's CORE members began testing the ruling throughout the Deep South. Their first test was in New Orleans at the Trailways bus terminal on Tulane Avenue. Alice and her comrades faced violence, intimidation and even imprisonment. In Poplarville, Mississippi, Alice was arrested and charged with breach of peace. She was placed in the same cell that Mack Charles Parker was placed in, taken from, and beaten two years earlier. In McComb, Mississippi, she and her fellow riders were viciously beaten. Alice volunteered for numerous projects during the U.S. Civil Rights Movement such as Mississippi and Louisiana Freedom Summer, and was present at the historic March on Washington on August 28, 1963. Alice was honored for her work by the State of Mississippi, the City of New Orleans, and by Oprah Winfrey during her show commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Freedom Riders.

In addition to her courageous civil rights advocacy, Alice was active in her community. She was one of the founding members of the Southern Organization for the Unified Leadership (SOUL), a founding member of the Lower Ninth Ward Development Association, an organizer of the New Orleans Health Corporation, and an organizer of the Copeland-Sanchez Center in the Lower Ninth Ward.

Alice loved to have a good time. She was always a centerpiece of family gatherings. With her signature beer in hand, she could always be seen recounting hilarious stories of her life and times, especially things that happened while she was in the Civil Rights Movement. She will be sorely missed by her family, her friends, and all of those who benefitted from her life's work—to bring freedom to all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, as a beneficiary of the courage, commitment and sacrifice of Alice Thompson, I celebrate her life and legacy, because she made America a more perfect union.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MARY SANDERS

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, our lives have been touched by the life of this one woman, who gave of herself in order for others to stand; and

Whereas, Dr. Mary Sanders' work is present in DeKalb County, Georgia for all to see, where she was an unwavering advocate for the youth as an educator; a community leader who worked tirelessly for the rights of our citizens in our district; and as a civic leader who volunteered as a Poll Officer in Gwinnett County, Georgia ensuring that the right to vote was administered to all that wanted to exercise their right; and

Whereas, this remarkable woman gave of herself, her time, her talent and her life; never asking for fame or fortune but only to uplift those in need; and

Whereas, Dr. Mary Sanders led by working behind the scenes, as well as front and center for the state of Georgia, DeKalb County NAACP, the Georgia Perimeter College Retirees Association Book Club, her beloved church, Antioch-Lithonia Baptist Church, and for her beloved Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; and

Whereas, this virtuous Proverbs 31 woman was a wife, a mother, a sister, a daughter and a friend; she was a warrior, a matriarch, and a woman of great integrity; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to bestow a Congressional recognition on Dr. Mary Sanders for her leadership, friendship and service to all of the citizens in Georgia and throughout the Nation; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby attest to the 114th Congress that Dr. Mary Sanders of DeKalb County, Georgia is deemed worthy and deserving of this "Congressional Honor".

Dr. Mary Sanders, U.S. Citizen of Distinction in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 10th day of August, 2015.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MR. MICHAEL GODBEY

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding educator, Michael Godbey. Mr. Godbey leads Frankfort High School as its principal. Mr. Godbey's career as an educator spans twenty years. In this time he has served as an instructional assistant, bus driver, mathematics teacher, assistant principal, director of curriculum and instruction, and principal. Under Godbey's leadership, Frankfort High School has earned the classification of a Proficient and Progressing High School based on Kentucky's Next Generation Learner Accountability system. Frankfort High School was also ranked the Twelfth Best High School in the Commonwealth of Kentucky by U.S. News and World Report in 2014.

Mr. Godbey was recently selected as the 2015 Principal of the Year for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. This Award was presented by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NAASP). Godbey earned this award by his accomplishments in the education field over the years. His dedication to the education of his students is evident.

Godbey earned his B.A. in Secondary Education from the University of Kentucky and his M.A. in Education from Eastern Kentucky University. Prior to his tenure at Frankfort High School, Godbey worked in the Danville, Kentucky Independent School district. He and his wife Claudia reside in Nicholasville, Kentucky with their sons Jared and Hayden.

Education of our nations' young men and women is critically important. Mr. Godbey has exemplified strong leadership and innovation and is very deserving of the recent Principal of the Year award. Mr. Speaker, I applaud his creative talents and dedication in the education field.

BLUE RIDGE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, for 25 years, Blue Ridge Christian School in Bridgewater, Virginia, has provided a high quality, value-based Christian education to students. I am proud to represent an excellent institution of learning like Blue Ridge Christian School in the U.S. House of Representatives. As their programs have expanded in size and scope, diversity in both denominations and heritage has also grown. Staying true to the principles of their founding families, Blue Ridge Christian School has continuously maintained a strong commitment to academic excellence.

Today, the school is preparing to expand their mission by constructing a new campus. At the same time they will create a new relationship with another Christian institution of learning in the Sixth Congressional District, Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. This new partnership will be beneficial to the students and further expand the opportunities available through Blue Ridge Christian School.

I commend Blue Ridge Christian School as it marks its silver anniversary with an ambitious plan for growth that remains true to its Christian mission. I am hopeful that its next 25 years will be filled with fine opportunities for its students to make their mark on their hometowns, our nation, and the world beyond our borders. Go Bears!

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR MCKENZIE JONES

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, this year, Pastor McKenzie Jones is celebrating twenty (20) years in pastoral leadership at Zoe Baptist Church where he has provided stellar leadership to the church and community; and