

building. A stranger told John about His Place, a Christian recovery home in Opelika, Alabama.

While there, John overcame his addictions, and found religion. He resolved to make good on the change in his life by helping others, and over the past 15 years has served in numerous positions at His Place, most recently becoming an assistant director there. He also serves as a deacon and elder at Grace Falls Church, and is known and loved throughout his community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the life and achievements of Mr. Jenkins and wishing him a happy 75th birthday.

RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to recognize October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month. As we celebrate the 70th year of recognizing individuals with disabilities within our national workforce, it is paramount that we, as a country, do everything we can to ensure individuals with a disability have opportunities to enter the workforce without barriers.

Individuals with disabilities are a vital part of our national workforce and have contributed greatly to the U.S. economy. Yet, only 19.1% of these Americans are participants in the labor force. Accessibility, transportation, and perceptions of individuals with disabilities are some of the many obstacles that prevent these Americans from being given the opportunity to put in a full day's work and become active members of our communities. Likewise, it is critical that we recognize the organizations and individuals across the country that provide these opportunities.

The Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind is one such organization in my district that deserves this special recognition. Founded in 1931, the Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind provides employment opportunities for the visually impaired. The organization enhances the lives of hundreds of individuals with disabilities. In doing so, they bring tremendous value to our community.

As we recognize October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month, I call on employers, schools, and other organizations to work throughout the year—not only in October—to ensure that individuals with disabilities have a chance to contribute in meaningful and long-lasting ways through gainful employment. Mr. Speaker, individuals with disabilities have a lot of value to contribute to our society, and I am pleased to recognize their contributions during this very special month.

HONORING THE VICTIMS OF THE UMPQUA COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRAGEDY

HON. PETER A. DEFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I submit an article from Roseburg, Oregon's News-Review to honor and remember the lives of those who were taken too soon at Umpqua Community College on Thursday, October 1, 2015.

I ask that all Americans pray for the friends and families of these nine victims as they grieve and rebuild from this tragedy.

We must also keep in our thoughts and prayers those who were injured physically and emotionally by this event. It will take time and our support and patience as they grieve and recover.

Roseburg is a strong and tight-knit community. I am heartened, and not surprised, by the acts of kindness and generosity in response to an unthinkable act. We call that "UCC Strong," "Roseburg Strong." It is this strong spirit that will carry everyone through this difficult time.

[From the News-Review, Roseburg, Oregon, Oct. 2, 2015]

VICTIMS' FAMILIES: 'OUR LIVES HAVE BEEN SHATTERED BEYOND REPAIR'

The victims who died in Thursday's Umpqua Community College shooting were far more than a list of names. Five of the nine people who died were under 21 years old.

They were youth with bright futures, a teacher who loved the river, older students getting a fresh start.

Their families, friends and community are devastated by their loss.

TREVEN ANSPACH

Treven Anspach's close friend Danny Gil said Anspach loved playing soccer and basketball, and he was good at it because he was taller than everybody else. He also liked just hanging out with friends.

"He always had a smile on his face, I don't know. He was just like the type of guy that was always cheerful to be around," Gil said.

Gil was devastated when he heard from his roommate that a mutual friend had seen Anspach get shot. He believes Anspach was the victim who was brought to Mercy Medical Center and died there.

"I wasn't ready to let him go. I just wasn't ready for it. I just cry about it and talk to my friends about it and my family," Gil said.

Gil said Anspach had his whole life ahead of him.

"He was doing good in college. He had a girlfriend. He was engaged, and he was ready for life to just begin," he said.

In a statement, Anspach's family described him as "one of the most positive young men, always looking for the best in life. Treven was larger than life and brought out the best in those around him."

According to his parents, Anspach was "a perfect son."

Anspach played basketball for the Sutherlin Bulldogs and at UCC.

Umpqua Riverhawks basketball coach Dan Leeworthy wrote on Facebook that Anspach wanted to "marry his high school sweetheart, be a firefighter like his Dad, and to serve others."

"To me he was a friend and a coach's dream. He was a friend to everyone," Leeworthy wrote.

LARRY LEVINE

Larry Levine was an assistant English professor at Umpqua Community College. He

was an avid fisherman, a member of the Steamboaters fishing group and a former fly fishing guide.

Levine was teaching an English class just before the shooting, and it was his classroom the gunman entered when the terror began.

Friend and fellow Steamboater Dale Greenley remembered Levine as an "easy-going, kind of quiet, laid back" man. Greenley had known Levine since the 1970s. He said Levine did whatever it took to stay by the river so he could keep on fishing.

"He could have gone off somewhere and probably made good money, but he loved the Umpqua and he stayed here and he finally got that job at the UCC and that was really nice," he said.

Greenley doesn't have a television set, so he didn't know about Levine's death until he was called by a reporter with a national news outlet.

"That's when I found out. It was kind of a shock. I'm still kind of processing it," he said.

Greenley said Levine was fun to talk to. They shared fishing stories together. Levine was a great writer who loved to describe the North Umpqua River he loved, Greenley said.

"He was just part of the river," Greenley said. "Larry loved the river. He committed his life to it."

He was also popular with students.

"If you ever had any questions or problems or anything else, he was Johnny-on-the-spot to help you out," said Taylor Gunn, 21, of Myrtle Creek who took her first ever community college class from Levine last spring.

KIM DIETZ, 59, ROSEBURG

Kim Dietz was a strong and compassionate woman, whose love of animals defined her, said Carolyn Whitehorn, Dietz's mother-in-law.

Dietz owned two Great Pyrenees dogs.

Whitehorn recalled Dietz setting out to befriend a local feral cat who was determined to stay wild.

"Feral cats are not easy to tame," she said through tears. "But she had him tamed in what seemed like no time at all. She would sit outside when he was around and just talk to him and offer him food until he came close enough to pet."

Eventually, the cat became the family pet who lived with Dietz for many years.

"She was such a strong and powerful woman," Whitehorn said. "She will be missed greatly."

LUCAS EIBEL, 18, ROSEBURG

Lucas Eibel's family said they have been "trying to figure out how to tell everyone how amazing Lucas was, but that would take 18 years."

Eibel was an FFA member and a volunteer with Wildlife Safari and Saving Grace. He was a Ford Family Foundation scholarship recipient and was studying chemistry.

He and three of his siblings were quadruplets. They were nicknamed The Quad by their friends at Roseburg High School.

In 2014, Lucas Eibel told News-Review reporter Kate Stringer it's "always funny to see people's reactions" when they find out the four are fraternal quadruplets.

Eibel was studying chemistry in his first year at UCC. It was his favorite subject in high school.

The family has asked that donations be given to Roseburg High School FFA and to the injured victims.

QUINN GLEN COOPER, 18, ROSEBURG

Quinn Glen Cooper was in his fourth day of college.

"We are shocked this has happened," his family's statement said.

Cooper was funny, smart and compassionate. He was the kind of guy who stood up

for other people, according to family members. He was going to take his brown-belt test in karate next week.

“I don’t know how we’re going to move forward with our lives without Quinn. Our lives have been shattered beyond repair,” the family statement said.

“I can’t actually believe you are gone,” wrote Cooper’s friend Andrew Phillips on Facebook. “You always made me laugh and we always finished each other’s sentences.”

Former classmate Luke Counsell wrote on Facebook about a time that Cooper was the only one to follow him to the changing room to comfort him when he broke down while rehearsing for a play.

“He wasn’t just a ‘friend,’ he was a brother,” Counsell wrote.

REBECKA ANN CARNES, 18, MYRTLE CREEK

Rebecka Carnes had just started both a new job and her college career, according to her cousin Lisa Crawford. She was studying for a job in a health care field.

“She had people in her life that loved her fiercely and are devastated,” Crawford wrote on Facebook.

Carnes was a relative of U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley—his cousin’s great-granddaughter.

Merkley called Carnes a “beautiful spirit,” according to The Oregonian.

She graduated South Umpqua High School in June. She played softball.

Kristy Westbrooks, an English teacher said, “Going to UCC was always her plan. A she worked really hard to earn scholarships last year.”

“Everybody said she was a sweet person and very well thought of,” said Jim Howard, superintendent of the South Umpqua School District.

LUCERO ALCARAZ, 19, ROSEBURG

Lucero Alcaraz was in the UCC Scholars program and studying to become a pediatric nurse. Friends called her beautiful and kind-hearted.

Friend Brittany Eggers said Alcaraz was a talented artist and a great person.

“She was probably the sweetest person I know, probably the most genuine too,” Eggers said. “She never once said anything bad about anybody.”

Eggers said she is confused and angry about what happened to her friend.

“I just don’t understand,” she said.

Alcaraz’s sister Maria Alcaraz, heartbroken, wrote on Facebook that she never got the chance to tell her how proud she was of her accomplishments.

“You were going to do great things love,” she wrote.

JASON JOHNSON, 33, WINSTON

Jason Johnson spent the last few months of his life fighting.

A part of The Salvation Army’s rehabilitation program to battle addiction, Johnson went from being beat up and physically ill to being a role model, said close friend Chuck Bellinger, who described their friendship as a brotherhood.

“He was always right there,” said Bellinger who was in the program along with Johnson. “His room was right next to mine and every night I’d go to bed and before that boy would get into his bed, he’d come pop my door open and tell me good night and that he loved me.

“We have to carry the torch. His torch is a bright one and probably very difficult to go on with,” he said.

But Bellinger said that Johnson’s death was not in vain.

“Our brother was following his dream and sobered up and was becoming a productive member of society,” he said. “He died a sober and upright man—a dude that was loving his family and an example for everyone.”

He was attending UCC and his family said Johnson had found the right path and they were proud of him for enrolling in school.

SARENA DAWN MOORE, 44, MYRTLE CREEK

Sarena Moore was a Seventh-Day Adventist who loved animals, according to Oregon Public Broadcasting.

According to the online Adventist magazine Spectrum, Moore was a firm believer of prayer, a single mother with few possessions but a big heart. She attended Reno High School and had recently moved to Myrtle Creek from Grants Pass to attend UCC.

Her pictures on Facebook are of dogs and horses, suggesting she was an animal lover.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF FRIENDSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House’s attention today to recognize the 125th anniversary of the founding of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, in Aniston, Alabama.

The church was founded in March 1890 by four local reverends, when it was then known as the Galilee Baptist Church. During the first 10 years of the church’s existence, the congregation held services under a tent in what is now a local park in Lincoln, Alabama.

In 1900, the church moved into their first building. Sadly, this burned down in April of 1905. The congregation again met under a tent for services, doing so until 1910 when they built their own church, a wooden structure. With a significantly expanding membership, Reverend W.L. Maddox ordered the construction of a red brick building on the site in 1921, which still stands today.

The church has had four pastors since then, and seen significant expansions, such as the construction of a family life center. The current pastor, Reverend Carlton L. Phillips, has served since 2010.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the congregation of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church on their 125th Anniversary.

TAIWAN’S DOUBLE TEN DAY

HON. CHARLES J. “CHUCK”

FLEISCHMANN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, as the people of Taiwan celebrate their national holiday, Double Ten Day, on October 10th, I would like to extend my congratulations and best wishes to them.

The United States and Taiwan enjoy a long-standing relationship that stems from our shared values: democracy, the rule of law, and free enterprise. Taiwan is a strong national security and economic partner. The island is now our 10th-largest trading partner. Also, Taiwan is the 5th largest export market for Asia in my home state of Tennessee.

In recent decades, Taiwan has created a democracy which conducts direct presidential

elections every four years and has witnessed the peaceful passage of power from one political party to another on two occasions. This serves as a powerful example to other nations in the region and beyond who aspire to democracy. Taiwan is a regional and global economic force, and they make global contributions culturally in many diverse fields. Through our shared security partnership, the island also contributes to the security of the Asia-Pacific and is a humanitarian force around the globe.

I would like to congratulate Taiwan on the occasion of Double Ten Day, and I look forward to many more years of friendship between our two countries.

IN HONOR OF THE HERITAGE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH ON THEIR 37TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Heritage Fellowship Church of Reston, Virginia. Heritage Fellowship Church, initially named Christian Community Fellowship, began in 1978 as the town of Reston’s first African-American church. In the church’s early stages, it moved around, having its services in different high schools. Howard University’s School of Divinity and the Washington DC Community of Faith provided pastors to lead the church and the church’s first pastoral advisor was Dr. Harold Hunt of Howard Divinity School, who served from May of 1978 to January of 1979. Dr. Earnest W. Armstrong, Sr. was next to give pastoral leadership to Heritage Fellowship Church, serving from January of 1979 to March of that same year. Over the years, Heritage Fellowship Church has had many distinguished advisors from the religious community, attesting to its deep community ties. In 1995, on the first Sunday in November, Reverend Dr. Norman A. Tate began his 20 year tenure at Heritage Fellowship Church as an Interim Pastor. Three dedicated years later he rose to the office of Senior Pastor. In June of 2012, a 73,000 square foot building was finished, the result of a year-long capital campaign. This building houses a youth center, staff offices and many other rooms that benefit the entire community. This year, on Saturday, October 10th, they will celebrate two significant events. The first is the 37th anniversary of Heritage Fellowship Church and the second is the 20th anniversary of Reverend Dr. Tate’s leadership at Heritage Fellowship Church. Heritage Fellowship Church and Reverend Dr. Tate have both made a great impact on our community, and for that, we are all grateful.

104TH NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as the 104th National Day of the