

HONORING THE DEDICATION OF  
BRITNEE FERGINS TO HER FAMILY

**HON. JOHN FLEMING**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the story of Britnee Fergins of Shreveport, Louisiana. Care of family is a powerful expression of our humanity, and Britnee has provided us a touching example through the care of her father and her son. She stepped up to answer the noble calling to serve as the caretaker for her father, Percy Sr., who is a ninety year old World War II veteran. Caring for a family member can be a very rewarding experience, but it can also be a very challenging one. This challenge is only magnified when a loved one is diagnosed with Alzheimer's, a devastating disease which strips individuals of their memory and lives, all while placing an exhausting amount of stress on their caretakers. Nevertheless Britnee has persevered in her love and care for her father, and has faithfully devoted her time and resources. However she is more than her father's caregiver, as she also is a dedicated mom to her spirited two year old son. Britnee is a hero both to her father and her son, an example of courage, and a role model of selfless dedication. Thank you, Britnee, for all that you have done and sacrificed on behalf of your family. I am proud to recognize your service during the National Caregiver Month, and I salute the thousands who do the same thing unheralded.

IN HONOR OF THE LATE BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES ABRAHAM

**HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Brigadier General James M. Abraham who entered eternal life on November 8, 2015.

General Abraham's many achievements are a testament to patriotism and service above self. In his nearly ninety-three years on Earth, "General Jim" was a voice for change and a force for good in his local community, as a state leader, and in his national service.

James Abraham first answered the call to national service when he enlisted in the United States Army, proudly serving in the 3rd Army under General George S. Patton. Continuing his service over the next four decades in both the regular Army and the Army National Guard, General Abraham's career culminated with his posting as the Assistant Adjutant General for the State of the Ohio Army National Guard. Many times over he was recognized for his leadership skills and professionalism, receiving the Legion of Merit, four bronze stars, three Army Commendation Medals, the Normandy Medal, the French diploma of appreciation, and induction into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame.

Yet General Abraham's contributions out of uniform are of similar distinction and remain worthy of recognition. Jim lived his life as an

innovator, facilitating new ways to do business in local government, holding numerous patents, and publishing three books. His keen intellect and thoughtful leadership style also served the citizens of Gahanna, Ohio when he took the reins as service safety director. To recognize his many years in local governance, the residents of Gahanna named their city hall in his honor as a fitting testament to his tireless efforts on their behalf.

A proud alumnus of Ohio University, General Abraham dedicated much of his time to supporting the Bobcat family. He is credited with successfully preventing the deactivation of the Ohio University ROTC program which continues to shape the future of our military. He also created new methods of instruction which have been applied to other universities across the nation. For his unwavering commitment to the university, its students, and higher education he was awarded an honorary doctorate in 2015. This capstone recognition served as his final public salute for his innumerable accomplishments and a life well lived.

I am proud to have known General Abraham as both a friend and colleague. Over the years, he advised countless public officials on veterans' issues, engineering ventures, and leadership in difficult times. He served as the chairman of my Service Academy Nomination Board as well as that of former Congressman John R. Kasich, helping select the best and brightest to carry our armed forces into the future. Lastly, his calm and steady demeanor has provided me immeasurable resolve in difficult times.

I am deeply saddened by the loss of my friend, the General. Though my words today fall short of the recognition he rightfully deserves, I believe his reputation and legacy across Central Ohio will remain examples for Ohioans, and carry on as a testimony to his exceptionalism. His spirit is best captured in one of his many inspirational exhortations that in our lives "Each plateau that is reached should only be the launching point for the next achievement." Our most fitting tribute is to live our lives accordingly, and continue to reach for higher goals.

On behalf of the citizens of Ohio's 12th Congressional District, I say farewell to General James M. Abraham, one of our finest neighbors. I am honored to pay tribute to him today.

HONORING ANGELO MARTINELLI

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a leader in the Yonkers community, Angelo R. Martinelli, who for 20 years has led the Yonkers Chamber of Commerce as Chairman with great distinction and integrity.

Originally born in the Bronx in 1927, Angelo grew up in Mount Vernon, attending A.B. Davis High School. Following his graduation in 1945, he enlisted in the United States Army where he served until 1946 as a Sergeant.

After leaving the Army, Angelo returned home to work in his family's business, The Yonkers Daily Times, while swiftly moving to buy the Gazette Press in 1948. This shift, as well as meeting the love of his life, Carol

Madatto, led to the purchase of their first home in Yonkers in 1960, where Angelo still currently lives.

In 1974, Angelo ran and was elected Mayor of the City of Yonkers, serving from 1974–1979 and again from 1982–1987. He has earned a reputation as an effective and forceful advocate of municipal government interests, like seniors, anti-crime programs, and the reactivation of the Yonkers Police Athletic League. In 1983, with the closing of the PAL seeming imminent, Mayor Martinelli helped form a new Board of Directors, and today the PAL is a vibrant organization, with Angelo continuing to serve as its President since 1991. Angelo was the owner and Chairman of the Board of Gazette Press, Inc., and is currently Chairman of the Board for Today Media, Inc. From 1990 until May, 2012 he served as a director of Hudson Valley Bank.

In January 1984, Mercy College conferred upon him an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters. In January 1995 he became Chairman of the Yonkers Chamber of Commerce, a position he still holds. In August 2015, HBO aired the miniseries, "Show Me a Hero," with Angelo, who was delighted to be portrayed by actor Jim Belushi.

But Angelo's passion was always his family. He and Carol, to whom he was married to and loved for 65 years, have six sons, Michael, Paul, Robert, Richard, Thomas and Ralph, and five daughters-in-laws, 12 grandchildren, and five great grandchildren. Angelo is an active parishioner of St. Eugene's Church, Yonkers.

This year, the Yonkers Chamber of Commerce is honoring Angelo at the 122nd Annual Business Hall of Fame Dinner, commemorating his 20 years of service as Chairman of the Board. I want to thank him for his incredible leadership and for helping to make Yonkers the great city it is today.

RICHARD LANDY

**HON. LEE M. ZELDIN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the service of Richard Landy.

On December 8, 1942, at the age of 18, Richard Landy stepped forward to serve his country during World War II. He was assigned to serve in one of the most dangerous units in the armed forces, the newly established Naval Armed Guard. This assignment placed men in constant danger and threat of attack while guarding the often ill equipped merchant and naval support ships. Armed only with machine and deck guns, these men were tasked to protect these ships, the lifeline of the war effort, from enemy submarines, surface raiders and aircraft.

During his time in service, Richard sailed on Landing Ship-Tank Class Landing Ships, such as the *Francis Drake* and *Duquesne*. His service began in the Mediterranean theatre during the Normandy Invasion, crossing the English Channel as his LST deployed American troops on Utah and Omaha Beaches as well as Free French Forces on Sword Beach. A signalman 2nd class, Richard served in three theaters of operation; the Mediterranean, the Pacific and Europe, receiving the Bronze Star Medal for

each. With the thanks of a grateful nation, Richard was honorably discharged on January 3, 1946.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT  
“BOB” LOQUACI**

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Robert “Bob” Loquaci, who passed away on October 31, 2015 at the age of 92. Bob was an extraordinary person, and he will always be remembered as a man who lived his life with purpose and dedication to public service.

Robert “Bob” Loquaci was born in Madera, CA on June 1, 1923 to Urbano Loquaci and Eda Pistoresi Loquaci. He was born to be a farmer; he began farming grapes with his father as soon as he was old enough to help. Love came at a young age for Bob, who met the love of his life, Dora Karahadian, when they were both teenagers. Bob would go on to serve his nation by joining the U.S. Navy in the Pacific during the World War II. When Bob returned from his service, he married Dora. They were married for 70 years and together, they had two sons, David and Leslie, who have continued the family farming legacy.

Mr. Loquaci’s passion for agriculture was passed on from his father at a young age. Throughout his life, he served his farming community in different leadership positions. Bob served both as a Founding Director and President of the Raisin Bargaining Association. Mr. Loquaci represented the domestic raisin industry by testifying in Washington D.C., where President Nixon later signed a law making imported raisins meet U.S. food safety standards. Bob also traveled twice to Japan to open the market for U.S. raisins and to promote raisins sales. Bob also served as: founding Director of the California Association of Winegrape Growers (CAWG), Director of the Raisin Administrative Committee, was a Charter Member of the Nisei Farmers’ League, and was an active member of the Western Growers Association, Madera Farm Bureau, and Madera Grange.

Bob was a strong supporter of his community and was dedicated to helping those around him. He co-founded the Madera Agriculture Youth Association (MAYA) to support agricultural endeavors of local youth. He was also generous; he was an annual supporter and buyer of the Madera Junior Livestock sale. He was extremely involved, including being a Charter and Lifetime Member of the Madera Elk’s Club, a Director of the Madera County Fair Board, a Trustee of La Vina School Board, a Director of the Chamber of Commerce, a member of the VFW, and he was a member of other service clubs as well.

Bob lived his life to the fullest, surrounded by family and friends. His commitment to fam-

ily and to his community will forever live in the lives of the people he touched. Bob is survived by his loving wife, his two sons David and his wife, Joan and by Leslie and his wife, Laddyne, three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. I am honored and humbled to join his family in celebrating the life of this amazing man, who will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a man of great service and dedication. His memory will live on through his family and be remembered by our entire community. We are all better for having known Mr. Robert “Bob” Loquaci, a remarkable Californian and Central Valley native.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. STEVE KING**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on roll call nos. 626, 627, and 628, had I been present, I would have voted “Yes.”

**HONORING ANNIE OLIVER**

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a leader in my district, from my hometown of the Bronx. To celebrate life for 100 years is a historic milestone, and it’s my pleasure to speak about the centurion Annie Oliver.

Born on October 30th, 1915, Annie Ruth Still was originally from Birmingham, Alabama, and is the eldest of two sisters. Following her graduation from the esteemed Park High School in 1944, Annie made the move to New York City to begin work.

In the fateful year of 1957, Annie made two life changing decisions, marrying her husband George Oliver, to whom they would share a lifetime of happiness with two sons, Will Jr. and Floyd, and joining the Church on The Hill AME Zion of New York City.

It was here she began her 58 year tenure of service to her community and love of God. During her outstanding service, Annie Oliver served as President of the Stewardess Board for 26 years, President of the User Board, President of Class Number 1, and currently serving in capacity as “Mother of the Church”. She also serves as a member of the Board of Trustees for The Church on the Hill and is the longest serving member of their congregation.

After marrying husband George, the family moved to the Bronx, where she still currently resides. Annie began working at Made in America, a 40 year tenure and then an additional 25 years serving at Emerson Radio&TV,

and the Beral Motor Company. She lives, loves, and always worked in the Bronx. She is beloved by her family, including 5 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

This year, on Friday, October 30th, 2015, her family, church family, and friends will be celebrating Mother Annie Oliver’s 100th birthday milestone. I wish her the happiest of birthdays and congratulations on this remarkable milestone and on her incredible life.

**FAIRNESS TO VETERANS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT ACT OF 2015**

**SPEECH OF**

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in opposition to H.R. 1694, the Fairness to Veterans for Infrastructure Investment Act of 2015.

As the Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee for Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies and the co-chair of the Military Family Caucus, I strongly support efforts to ensure veterans have access to opportunities needed to become successful in the workforce.

Simply, H.R. 1694 makes veterans compete against women- and minority-owned small businesses for an already small goal of ten percent of federal highway and transit construction contracts.

While I agree with the sponsor’s stated goal of helping veterans and veteran-owned businesses, I do not believe that the best way to do so is by legally undermining the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program.

Instead, we should help both veterans and disadvantaged businesses succeed.

That is why I joined Representatives CUMMINGS, NORTON, BROWN, and BUSTOS in sponsoring H.R. 3997, which would create a Veteran-owned Business Enterprise (VBE) program within the Department of Transportation with a stated national goal of ensuring at least 10 percent of federal highway contracts go to veteran-owned small businesses.

Instead, creating a specific and separate contracting goal for veteran-owned businesses is a better way to maximize assistance to veterans, as opposed to forcing competition between these two constituencies, both of whom continue to suffer through disproportionately high unemployment rates.

I urge my colleagues to help veteran-owned businesses compete for Department of Transportation contracts without harming the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program by supporting H.R. 3997 and not H.R. 1694.