

be recorded, we did manage to audio record the Saturday homeless advocates and providers roundtable discussion as per Dr. William Lawson's advising the need to write, publish and develop articles, policy papers, and talking points, as a way of contributing to the literature. Furthermore, charter member Tom Harris suggested that the recording be sent to members across the country, so it can be shared locally for people to hear and discuss.

Most importantly, the forum feedback was highly favorable, with comments like 'the forum was on point,' 'I learned so much,' 'great job,' 'incredible,' 'awesome,' 'phenomenal,' 'I thought it was great for Congressional representatives to focus on homeless veterans,' 'impressed with panel and listened intensely,' 'made good contacts,' 'well organized,' and 'it was a one stop shop of information giving a broad perspective (from coast to coast), or a snap shot of black veterans status, or circumstantial situation, particularly for those of us on limited budgets and fixed incomes.' The general consensus was that we are making progress, but we still have work to do. Consequently, two tangible forum outcomes under serious consideration are crafting a position/policy paper and creating a new Veterans Braintrust Homeless Committee consisting of advocates and providers from the community or grassroots level. Also under consideration is planning a follow-up session with the strong support of the National Alliance to End Homelessness and others to include either a Capitol Hill Briefing and/or high level meetings with Congresswoman BROWN (D-FL) and other leaders in Congress.

The Annual Gala Reception and Awards Ceremony was, as usual, 'a standing room only' affair in the Cannon House Office's Room 334 (Veterans Hearing Room). With a musical showcase performed by DC's Lou Rawls, followed by Congresswoman BROWN's welcome and introduction of Veterans Affairs personnel, committee staffers and Don Phillips, Minority Staff Director, House Committee on Veterans Affairs (HCVA), in addition to our very special guest Martin Luther King III, and Pastor Leon Bryant, Sr., who blessed the food. In his role as Master of Ceremonies Executive Director Ron Armstead presented a series of gifts to Congresswoman BROWN: first, a mug inscribed 'The Best Man for the Job is a Woman'; second, a civil war book titled "Firebrand of Liberty—The Story of Two Black Regiments that Changed the Course of the Civil War" by Stephen V. Ash, and third, a special Josiah Walls citation on behalf of Dr. Frank Smith, Jr., Founder of the African American Civil War Memorial Museum, located in Washington, DC.

Deserving 2015 Awardees were: Andrae Bailey, Abraham House-El, Gregory Crawford, Dr. Sharon Elliott-Bynum, Duery Felton, Jr., Irvin Goodwin, Clifton Lewis, Bruce Marks, Ivan Mason, Wendy McClinton, Col. Eugene Scott, USA, Ret., Gregory Scott, M. William Sermons, Darryl Vincent, Cordell Walker, Martha Watts, Alshi Williams, Larry Williams, A Step Forward, Inc., Catholic Charities St. Leo Campus for Veterans, Central Florida Commission on Homelessness, Final Salute, Inc., Greater Chicago Food Depository, Healing with CAARE, Inc., Joseph's Place, National Alliance to End Homelessness, National Association of American Veterans, National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America, Samuel L.

Felton Community Center, The Jericho Project, United States Veteran Initiative (U.S. VETs), United Way of King County, United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley, Veterans on the Rise, Michigan Veterans Foundation, Stand Down House, Film: 'Sweet Georgia Brown' and Historical Group: National World War II Museum Traveling Exhibit: 'Fight for the Right to Fight: The African American Experience in World War II.'

The official awards ceremony concluded with the playing of Ray Charles' rendition of "America the Beautiful," coupled with times are "Changin'" by Brass Construction to underscore the important historical changes taking place: from the Civil War to Josiah Walls, Florida's Black Congressman of Reconstruction, to the 50th Anniversary of the successful passage of the Voting Rights Act, to Rep. BROWN's election to Congress after the passage of 127 years, and her present status as Ranking Democratic member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee. But, the recent Florida GOP redistricting plot and TVOne Roland Martin interview where she states "if you are not at the table, you are on the menu," is cause to rethink the earlier musical premise.

Special acknowledgements go to Ralph Cooper, Mel King, Pamela King, Eva Kerr, South End Technology Center at Tent City, Julius Hayes, Allene Carter, Dr. Fari Nzinga, Todd Williams, Ronald Jackson, Sr., Wendy McClinton, Larry Williams, Gregory Crawford, Jas Boothe, Irvin Goodwin, Dr. Virginia Brown, Dr. William Lawson, Prof. Joel Beeson, Prof. Chad Williams, Ernest Washington, Jr., Henry 'Tabu' Taylor, Bonnie Perry, T. Michael Sullivan, Anthony Hawkins and Shantrel Brown; Congressional staffers Ronnie Simmons, Rontel Batie, Stephanie Anim-Yankah, Nick Martinelli, Chester Glover, Reginald McGill, Jackie Gray, Carla Wiley, Jonathan Halpern, William 'Bill' Golembiewski, Hannah Kim, and Reba Raffaelli.

Finally, we close by quoting decorated Korean War veteran Rep. CHARLES B. RANGEL (D-NY)—"No American let alone African American who serves this great nation deserves to be left on the streets of America homeless or alone. And shouldn't disproportionate African American homeless veterans be a 21st century civil rights issue?"

JILL FELLMAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Jill Fellman for receiving the West Chamber's 2015 Celebrate Women Award. This award celebrates local women leaders with drive, perseverance and service to their community.

As a Jefferson County native, Jill attended Jefferson County schools and then became an educator in the Jefferson County public school system for 30 years. After retiring from her education career, Jill served as an elected member of the Jefferson County School Board of Education from November 2011 to November 2015.

Currently, she is a member of the Jefferson County Schools Foundation Board, the Audit Committee, the Wheat Ridge Education Alli-

ance, and the City of Arvada Coordinating Council. She also serves as Secretary for the Arvada Community Food Bank board and is Vice Chair for the Sooper Credit Union Foundation board. With her endless amount of energy and passion for first rate public education, she also serves on the board of Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth and is an Edgewater Collective community partner.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jill Fellman for receiving the 2015 Celebrate Women Award. Thank you for your leadership and service to the community.

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL
EDUCATION WEEK AND RECOGNIZING NORTH CAROLINA'S EFFORTS TO ADVANCE GLOBAL EDUCATION

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this week, November 16–20, marks the 16th annual International Education Week (IEW), which is a joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education that serves as an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange programs worldwide and encourages participation in them. This important week is observed all across the United States and in more than 100 countries overseas. I want to recognize some of the efforts within my home state of North Carolina to provide a global education experience to as many students as possible.

The theme of this year's IEW is 'International Education: Advancing Access for All,' which is critical because opportunities to learn global competency skills are not currently accessible to all students.

I want to call attention to the North Carolina State Board of Education, whose members help to guide NC's global education efforts via their 2013 report, 'Preparing Students for the World: Final Report of the State Board of Education's Task Force on Global Education.' As noted in this report, "Students in North Carolina are no longer preparing for future jobs in North Carolina. They are preparing to work and compete in a global workplace. The impact of cultural sensitivities and the capability to collaborate in a diverse international setting . . . cannot be understated. Our State Board of Education in North Carolina is rightfully focusing on these skill areas, as they will become even bigger factors and differentiators in determining the future success of our students."

At least in part due to this statewide focus on global education, there are an increasing number of course offerings and enrollment in language studies and an increasing number of K–12 dual language/immersion programs in North Carolina. Today, there are at least 15 world languages being taught in our state's K–12 schools, including Chinese, Russian, Arabic and Hindi. And there are over 100 programs—a number that is rapidly growing—utilizing several different learning models being implemented in school districts across the state. The State Board of Education recently

designated Piedmont Middle School as the first Global-Ready School under the Board's Global Education Strategic Plan and 15 schools have indicated an intent to apply for this designation in the upcoming year.

I am also proud that North Carolina is home to the nation's first statewide Global Schools Network that serves to connect teachers, school administrators, non-profit and for-profit partners with a deep commitment to international education and 21st century student preparation. The Network's founding partner is VIF International Education, based in my district, an organization that supports the efforts of more than 180 Global Schools in 22 districts across the state. These schools are a mix of urban, rural, low-wealth, affluent, magnet and traditional sites and each provides school-wide access to global learning experiences via international exchange programs, global competence training for all teachers, a school-wide global curriculum, virtual classroom to classroom partnerships, and/or dual-language/immersion programs. VIF's mission of 'Global Education for All' serves as a rallying cry for the schools statewide.

Our North Carolina universities further help to advance global competencies at the undergraduate and graduate level. For example, the statewide University of North Carolina (UNC) system hosts a myriad of global education programs, including World View, which provide daily proof of the positive impact of international exchange. And the Center for International Understanding (CIU), a program of UNC General Administration, is working to develop a first-in-the-nation strategy for North Carolina's business, government, nonprofits and educational institutions to strategically engage globally.

Many of our state's universities are also using IEW as an opportunity to inform students about how to participate in Study Abroad programs or other opportunities for international learning that encourage the exchange of knowledge and understanding and promote enlightened and responsible global citizenship. The UNC system-to-system student exchange partners currently total 32 campuses in seven countries, and individual UNC campuses offer numerous additional opportunities for students to study or intern overseas. In the 2012–2013 academic year, more than 6,300 UNC system students participated in a study abroad program, studying in 89 known countries, and the percentage of students participating expected to increase in future years. Further, there are global certificate programs at 6 UNC campuses and most campuses are developing strategies to enhance such offerings. There are also countless faculty-to-faculty interactions that occur across nations in a variety of ways, primarily through research.

During this International Education Week, I rise to celebrate these and the many other North Carolina-based organizations that are working day-in and day-out to ensure that our state continues to benefit from the efforts of international education. Further, I re-state my commitment to working this week, and every week, to help ensure that global competence is the norm rather than the exception for every student.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF
BRIGADIER GENERAL FRED-
ERICK R. PAYNE, JR., USMC,
RET. ON THE OCCASION OF HIS
PASSING

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Brigadier General Frederick "Fritz" R. Payne, Jr., a Marine Corps American Fighter Ace, recipient of a Congressional Gold Medal, dedicated husband to the late Dorothy Payne, and proud father and grandfather.

General Payne led a life centered on service, commitment, and sacrifice. In May, I was honored to present General Payne with the Congressional Gold Medal for his dedicated service to the Marine Corps and status as the oldest living American Fighter Ace, an elite group of pilots having downed at least five enemy aircraft in battle. Time after time, General Payne risked his life to preserve the freedom of all Americans, and time after time, General Payne was successful in his mission. For this, I am grateful.

In 1935, after graduating from the University of Arizona, Fritz joined the Marine Corps in an effort to pursue his dream of becoming a pilot. Not only did he achieve this dream, but after encountering fierce conflict over Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands Area, he also achieved status among the most elite fighter pilots, American Fighter Aces. Our freedom endures because of the bravery of men and women like General Payne.

General Payne is survived by his two sons, Robert Payne and Dewitt Payne; daughter Elizabeth Ann Payne; and three grandchildren. His wife, Dorothy Payne, predeceased him in 2011.

Mr. Speaker, General Payne's selfless service and vast military achievements in pursuit of the preservation of our American freedoms and ideals deserves acknowledgement. On behalf of all Americans, and in particular the residents of California's 36th Congressional District, I would like to honor the life and military service of Brigadier General Frederick "Fritz" R. Payne, Jr.

HONORING THE JOHNSON-PHELPS
VFW POST #5220 ON THEIR 80TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Johnson-Phelps Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #5220 of Oak Lawn, Illinois for celebrating 80 years of existing as a community organization. I appreciate all the hard work the Johnson-Phelps VFW has done to assist our nation's brave foreign war veterans.

The VFW's mission is, "To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts; to serve our veterans, the military and our communities; [and] to advocate on behalf of all veterans." The Johnson-Phelps VFW Post has excelled at fulfilling this mission by honoring the sacrifices of our vet-

erans and admirably serving our community. The Johnson-Phelps Post was formed in 1945 by a group of veterans returning from the Second World War. The Post was named for Mr. Raymond Johnson and Mr. Leslie Phelps, both killed in action during WWII. The newly formed Post chose Mr. Johnson's and Mr. Phelps' names from a hat that included the names of all 23 men from the Oak Lawn area that were killed in the war. The current Post building was completed in 1951, built in large part by the Post's own members. The Johnson-Phelps Post later merged with six other posts in the Southwest Chicagoland area, the oldest of which was chartered in 1935.

The Post's achievement and dedication to service is made possible today by Commander Richard Bukowski, Sr. Vice Commander Thomas Krone, and Jr. Vice Commander Bryant Reed. Their dedication to serving the community is shown through programs such as the well-known Voice of Democracy & Patriots Pen Scholarship Competitions. They also provide for the public by hosting and sponsoring important local events in our community.

Throughout the United States, and in the Third District of Illinois, the VFW has worked tirelessly to improve our communities and support the needs of our war veterans. The VFW has repeatedly advocated for better medical care and benefits for veterans, and has been instrumental in the funding efforts for our nation's war memorials.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Johnson-Phelps VFW Post #5220 of Oak Lawn, Illinois for this significant achievement. The members of the VFW have done a tremendous job serving and representing the third district of Illinois and I wish them all the best.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL
FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of November as National Family Caregivers Month, and to honor family caregivers in the Ninth Congressional District of Massachusetts and across the country.

Every day, millions of Americans dedicate their time, energy, and resources to care for their loved ones. In the last year, it is estimated that over 43 million adults—parents, children, siblings, spouses, friends, and neighbors—have provided unpaid care to an adult or child in need.

The tireless and selfless devotion of caregivers allows millions of Americans to live a full—and fulfilling—life. Many caregivers balance full-time careers and the many daily demands of modern life. Family caregivers provide an estimated \$450 billion in care and immeasurable support every year. Studies show that this not only provides health benefits and increases the life expectancy of those cared for, but can also increase the life expectancy for the caregivers by an average of nine months. As the number of older Americans rises, so too, will the number of caregivers. It is critical that legislators, regulators, and the general public unite to provide them with the resources—and respect—they deserve.