

Rosa Parks endured great personal hardship following her protest. She was fired from her job at a local department store and her husband was retaliated against in his own place of work, losing his job in the process as well. Rosa Parks was ultimately forced to leave Montgomery for Detroit, Michigan where she could begin a new life. However, her suffering would not be in vain and in 1956, the United States Supreme Court upheld a lower court ruling that Jim Crow laws were unconstitutional.

Rosa Parks channeled discrimination against her into positive action. She founded the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development, which is aimed at providing youth with life skills, character development, and education on civil rights history. Her contributions have been widely recognized thereafter. Rosa Parks is the recipient of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) highest award, the Spingarn Medal. She was also awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Bill Clinton, and was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, which is the highest award that United States Congress can bestow on a civilian.

Mr. Speaker, Rosa Parks serves as an inspiration to us all. Her story teaches us how the brave actions of one individual can inspire the actions of an entire generation. Individuals like Rosa Parks light the way and show us exactly how we can achieve the change we so greatly desire. Her actions changed the course of history and her legacy will be remembered far and wide.

RECOGNIZING THE 106TH CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING IN PERKASIE BOROUGH

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, three years before the lights on the famous Christmas tree in New York City's Rockefeller Center were flipped on, a small town in my district of Pennsylvania began a tradition that has spanned generations and leads the nation.

Since 1909, residents of Perkasio Borough have been gathering together in early December to light the community Christmas tree—a tradition that stands as America's oldest continuous tree lighting.

A town of under 3,000 at the time of its first Christmas celebration, Perkasio has grown steadily while community leaders, elected officials and local residents have kept its unique small town charm and timeless Christmas ritual.

Today, I recognize December 5th as what will be Perkasio's 106th consecutive community Christmas tree lighting and join in the celebration of this enduring holiday tradition.

TRIBUTE TO DUANE HARTE

HON. STEPHEN KNIGHT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. KNIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a man who dedicated his life to

serving his family and his community: Duane Harte, who passed away on Monday, November 23rd, at the age of 68.

Harte was born in 1947 and moved to the Santa Clarita Valley in 1974, where he and his wife Pauline raised their two daughters. He retired in 1990 as Senior Chief Petty Officer from the U.S. Naval Reserve after 23 years of service and owned a small business called Academy Addressing and Mailing.

Harte's contributions to the Santa Clarita Valley were numerous. He was president of the Santa Clarita Valley Veteran's Memorial Committee and founding president of the SCV Senior Center Charitable Foundation. He was also active in the Friends of Mentryville, SCV Historical Society, was the President of the SCV Veterans Memorial Committee, past chairman of the SCV Chamber of Commerce, SCV Committee on Aging, Newhall Redevelopment Committee, Friends of the Libraries of the SCV, Canyon Theatre Guild Board of Directors, and the Vice-Chairman of the Santa Clarita Parade Committee.

In 2008, Harte was selected to serve as a Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commissioner, where he served until he passed away due to a massive heart attack in his Santa Clarita home.

Harte is survived by his wife of 43 years, Pauline, their two daughters, Donna and Denise, and grandson Evan Alexander.

TRIBUTE TO CARL KLUVER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Carl Kluver of Shenandoah, Iowa, for receiving his high school diploma.

Two years after leaving the Charter Oak High School in 1942, Carl joined the military to serve his country. It wasn't until October 10th, 2015 that Carl was able to attain his diploma. Carl served our country honorably during World War II aboard the USS *Richmond* during his time in the U.S. Navy. He never regretted joining the military, but always wished he had finished high school. Carl made it known to his family that he wished he had received his high school diploma, and with the support and encouragement of his grandson he decided it wasn't too late to graduate. Carl's grandson John Olson contacted the Charter Oak-Ute Community School District and inquired about getting a diploma for his grandfather. After explaining the situation to school officials and once the Charter Oak School District verified that Carl had indeed been a student there, a diploma was granted. Surrounded by family, Carl received his diploma, saying, "It was a great day and one I'll never forget."

Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate Carl for his accomplishments and receiving his high school diploma. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress for his distinguished service to our country. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Carl and wishing him nothing but the best moving forward.

RECOGNIZING MR. GEORGE JOSEPH PARNESS

HON. TOM RICE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Mr. George Joseph Parness, a distinguished American hero, who spent his life improving the lives of others.

George joined the United States Navy just days after Pearl Harbor was bombed. He was ordered to report to the USS *Nicholson*, and also served aboard the USS *LeHardy*, the USS *President Hayes*, the USS *Phelps*, and the USS *Randall*. After WWII, George returned home only to eventually reenlist during the Korean Conflict. He served aboard many ships including the USS *Achernar*.

After returning from war George met his wife, June, and on February 12, 1954, they married. George then went on to work in the newspaper business, served as Mayor of Suffern, New York, and served as Rockland County Legislature. George and his wife then retired to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

George will be greatly missed and I ask that we keep his family in our thoughts and prayers.

INTRODUCTION OF THE OBSTETRIC FISTULA PREVENTION, TREATMENT, HOPE, AND DIGNITY RESTORATION ACT OF 2015

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing comprehensive legislation that both prevents new obstetric fistulas and helps to treat existing ones, helping millions of women around the world regain control of their health and dignity. The Fistula Prevention, Treatment, Hope and Dignity Restoration Act will support a cooperative effort to eradicate a heartbreaking, preventable condition that has been largely eliminated in the developed world.

Childbirth should not leave a woman disabled or ostracized by her family and community. Congress must commit to expanding access to treatment for the more than two million women worldwide who suffer from obstetric fistula and preventing new cases.

Obstetric fistula is a devastating condition that results from prolonged, obstructed labor without proper medical attention. During delivery, the infant's head presses against the woman's pelvis for so long that it creates a hole between the woman's vagina and rectum, leaving her without control of her bladder and/or bowels for the rest of her life if untreated. It also often results in a stillbirth. Mothers with fistulas are abandoned by their husbands and shunned by their families. According to the World Health Organization, there are between 50,000 and 100,000 new cases each year.

Fortunately, obstetric fistula is both treatable and preventable. Ninety percent of cases can be treated with a surgery costing an average

of \$400. This legislation allows for a comprehensive, three pronged approach of prevention, treatment and reintegration which involves: increasing access to prenatal care, emergency obstetric care, postnatal care, and voluntary family planning; building local capacity and improving national health systems; addressing underlying social and economic inequities, reducing the incidence of child marriage, and increasing access to education; and supporting reintegration and training programs to help women who have undergone treatment return to full and productive lives. These essential investments create a multiplier effect of benefits for women and their communities.

It is also imperative that Congress supports ongoing efforts in the fight to end fistula. Organizations such as UNFPA (the United Nations Population Fund) and USAID are working with partners in a global campaign to prevent and treat fistula with the goal of making the condition rare in areas of the developing world, such as sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. The legislation also supports coordination through the International Obstetric Fistula Working Group. Support for monitoring, evaluation, and research to measure the impacts of such programs throughout their planning and implementation phases will ensure the most efficient and effective allocation of U.S. foreign assistance dollars.

We are already well aware that promoting women's health is fundamental to ensuring the health of their children and families. With this bill, we can give women around the world hope for a healthy future. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of the Obstetric Fistula Prevention, Treatment, Hope, and Dignity Restoration Act.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR BETSY PATERSON UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Mansfield, Connecticut's 16-year mayor, Betsy Paterson upon her retirement. For nearly two decades, Betsy has provided rock-solid leadership for her town and her community, serving the residents of Mansfield with her know-how and forward-thinking initiatives.

Starting in 2007, Betsy led her town through a landmark reinvestment campaign. Working with the Mansfield Downtown Partnership to secure millions in state and federal funding. Betsy and the town embarked on an historic downtown improvement project that delivered to Mansfield residents and to the flagship University of Connecticut located in Storrs, additional open space, economic development and improved transportation. Betsy's leadership leveraged federal infrastructure investment with outstanding private sector development to leave a long-lasting impact on the town's business development and livability and a huge enhancement to UConn's ability to draw the "best and brightest" to its mission. Today, Storrs Center serves as an important transportation and economic hub that fuels a lively community and reflects Betsy's vision and determination.

In addition to her Mayoral duties, Betsy has served on the board of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, as a member of the Presidential Search Committee at the University of Connecticut, and on the Mansfield Democratic Town Committee and the Mansfield Historical Society.

Betsy has been a terrific friend and colleague during her time as Mayor. Although her leadership will be missed in the Mayor's office, I am confident that her deep involvement in the future of Mansfield will not end with her retirement. I ask my colleagues to please join me in thanking Betsy for her lifetime of service to Mansfield and eastern Connecticut.

REMARKS AT AMERICAN ARCHITECTURAL FOUNDATION'S OCULUS AWARD CEREMONY

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I had the honor of addressing the American Architectural Foundation's Oculus award ceremony to celebrate leadership in cultural heritage and highlight organizations whose preservation initiatives promote vibrant, sustainable communities. This year's Oculus award was presented to Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates for their national leadership in historic preservation.

I want to applaud the work of the American Architectural Foundation (AAF) and its president and CEO Ron Bogle. AAF's efforts to make restoration, preservation and protection of our nation's vulnerable historic buildings, collections, artifacts and works of art a national priority is commendable and it's an agenda I fully support.

Mr. Speaker, I submit my remarks from today's Oculus award.

Good afternoon.

Thank you, Mr. Ayers for the kind introduction. I appreciate all that you and your staff are doing to keep Congress working while you are restoring our beautiful Capitol dome. Thank you for your leadership.

I am thrilled to be here today.

The American Architectural Foundation is playing an important role in driving an agenda that places cultural heritage, historic preservation, and architectural restoration at its forefront.

I want to commend the vision and tremendous work of AAF President and CEO Ron Bogle, along with Mr. Thom Minner, Director of AAF's Center for Design and Cultural Heritage. Ron and Thom are working with me to get Congress re-engaged as a partner in protecting and restoring our country's historic treasures, treasures that unite communities and connect the past to the future.

We are here today to honor a company for more than 50 years of accomplishments in historic preservation. Congratulations to Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates on receiving the 2015 Oculus award.

WJE has a long record of contributing to projects across the U.S. and around the world. They have an office in Minnesota, but I was surprised to learn how often we worked at the same places.

In the early 1970s my first full-time job was in downtown St. Paul in the First National Bank building. Later, WJE worked on the First National Bank building. As a Minnesota state legislator, I spent eight years

working in our beautiful Cass Gilbert designed state capitol building. WJE has worked on the capitol. And, one of my proudest accomplishments in Congress has been to help secure the funding for the renovation of St. Paul's historic 1920's era train station—Union Depot. The Depot's \$250 million restoration was completed in 2013 and, again, WJE worked on the project.

Again, congratulations WJE on your tremendous record of success.

At the beginning of this year I became the lead Democrat on the Interior-Environment Appropriations Subcommittee. Each year our subcommittee produces a bill that provides over \$30 billion to fund the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of the Interior, the U.S. Forest Service, the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities, the Smithsonian museums, and a number of other federal agencies. It is an important portfolio that funds hundreds of millions of acres of federal land, our national parks, tribal nations, and many of America's most important historic sites.

Over the past months my office has been engaged with federal stakeholders and AAF to review the federal government's role in historic preservation. It is absolutely clear that without leadership from Congress and the Obama Administration our nation's most vulnerable treasures are at risk of being lost to time, decay, or neglect. Unfortunately, Congress and the Administration are neglecting our nation's treasures and this political apathy is costing the American people our cultural heritage.

In the 2016 House and Senate Interior-Environment appropriations bills, approximately \$61 million is allocated to the Historic Preservation Fund—primarily to support historic preservation offices in states, territories and tribal nations. This amount represents less than half of the \$150 million authorized funding level and it is nearly \$20 million less than was spent on historic preservation in 2010.

This abandonment of historic preservation runs counter to the desires of our constituents. States, local communities, non-profits, the foundation community, and the private sector want the federal government to be a real partner. All across our country communities come together and identify endangered historic and cultural assets that uniquely reflect local character and identity. It may be a historic building, a church, an archeological site, or a collection representing a moment in a community's history that exemplifies a unique piece of our American history. And, communities are asking for help—both technical and financial—because they want their valued asset to be preserved, protected, and restored for the next generation.

From 1999 to 2010 help was available. During those years, Congress provided modest, but critical funding for a program called Save America's Treasures. \$318 million in federal funding was appropriated for SAT grants over twelve years—that is less than \$1 per American for a decade of investments. Those grants required a dollar-for-dollar match which leveraged over \$400 million in additional funds.

But, since 2011, Congress has not provided a single dollar to Save America's Treasures.

During SAT's twelve years, more than 1,200 grants were awarded to restore 327 historic properties; 247 projects to restore collections, artifacts, artistic works, and documents were funded; and, 341 National Historic Landmarks were preserved.

The treasures saved include: the restoration of Rosa Parks' bus; restoring Little Rock's Central High School; saving Ansel