

organizations further establishing him as a critical leader in a wide array of community, political, non-profit and cultural institutions such as: the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, United Way, Reading Works, the Arab American National Museum, Eastern Michigan University's Board of Regents, Arab American Institute, Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Association of Performing Arts Presenters, University of Michigan Citizens Advisory Board, Fair Food Network, and the New Detroit Coalition.

Most remarkably, Ish's family has graciously shared his talents and time with our community. He is a loving husband to his wife Margaret, father to his five children, and grandfather to two. I know in his retirement he is looking forward to spending more time with them.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Ismael Ahmed for his lifetime of service and lasting impact on our region and country. We thank him for his leadership, and wish him many years of happiness and success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call 650 on final passage of S.J. Res. 24, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the EPA's CO₂ rule for existing power plants, I would have voted Aye, which is consistent with my position on this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL T. McCaul

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 658 I mistakenly pressed NAY when I intended to vote YEA.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on December 2, 2015, I was unable to vote on the Conference Report to accompany S. 1177, the Every Student Succeeds Act (Roll Call Number 655). Had I been present, I would have voted Yes.

“BILLIONAIRE BONANZA”—WEALTH INEQUALITY IN AMERICA

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring my colleagues' attention to a re-

cent report from the Institute for Policy Studies, “Billionaire Bonanza: the Forbes 400 and the Rest of Us.”

This report exposes just how drastic wealth inequality in America has become. As a whole, America is now wealthier than it has ever been before. But that wealth is concentrated in the hands of just a few Americans. The 20 wealthiest individual Americans have more wealth than the lowest 50% combined—that is, 20 Americans with more wealth than 152 million Americans.

The report “Billionaire Bonanza” found that the wealthiest 186 members of the Forbes 400 own as much wealth as the entire Latino population in America. The wealthiest 100 households in America own about as much wealth as the entire African American population in the United States. Economic inequality is also racial inequality.

Congress needs to enact common-sense policies to close the loopholes that have allowed for this extreme wealth inequality. It is time to raise revenue so we can increase opportunities for those at the lowest rung of the economic ladder to climb toward the top. I thank Chuck Collins and Josh Hoxie, the authors of this critical report, and I urge my colleagues to consider their proposals and to take action against the unsustainable concentration of wealth in America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 659, I was unavoidably detained off the House Floor and was unable to cast a vote. Had I been present, I would have voted no.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call Vote Numbers 660, 661, 663, and 664, I was unavoidably detained and unable to cast my votes. Had I been present, I would have voted “no” on Roll Call Numbers 660, 661, and 663 and I would have voted “yes” on roll call vote number 664.

RECOGNIZING HAROLD GRIFFITH

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Harold Griffith on being selected for induction into the Farm Credit Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame. This honor is reserved for those who have made a significant contribution to the agricultural industry of Colorado and the United States.

Currently, Mr. Griffith resides in Fort Morgan where he has been a leader in the dairy in-

dustry. He has been a pioneer by developing programs through the Dairy Catch It Program, which helps youth pursue careers in agriculture. Mr. Griffith clearly understands the importance of giving back to his community.

In addition, Mr. Griffith has extensive knowledge of Colorado water rights. This ultimately led to him being asked to serve on Governor Ritter's Water Task Force. Griffith has shown true leadership in his industry and community.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes as Mr. Griffith pursues his future endeavors. His passion and dedication to the agricultural industry makes him more than worthy of this distinct recognition. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Harold Griffith for his accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. LUTHER CONYERS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend an outstanding public servant and champion of education, Mr. Luther Conyers. Mr. Conyers will be retiring this month after serving 37 years on the Bainbridge City Council in Bainbridge, Georgia. He was first elected to the Bainbridge City Council in 1977 but his passion as an educator began long before then.

Mr. Conyers earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture in 1948 from Georgia State Industrial College, now Savannah State University, where he met his wife, Gwendolyn. Their daughters, Audrey and Luthenia, and their granddaughter, Leslie also attended Savannah State University so it is no wonder that the Conyers family was chosen as “SSU Family of the Year” in 2009. Mr. and Mrs. Conyers, co-sponsors of the Conyers-Kirbo Endowed Scholarship Fund for the school, were inducted into the 2015 Hall of Fame at Savannah State University.

Mr. Conyers first taught in the Institutional On-Farm Training Program designed for World War II veterans before joining the U.S. Army. He completed basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina and advanced training at Fort Bliss, Texas, before deploying to Korea, where he served 16 months and 27 days. He earned three Bronze Stars as a member of the transportation crew and he taught education classes while deployed.

After returning home to Bainbridge in 1942, he served as a substitute teacher and enrolled at Fort Valley State College, now University. He was employed at Randolph County High School for six months, and beginning in 1954, he taught at Bainbridge Elementary School. He earned a Master's in Education from Florida A&M University in 1961. In 1965, he transferred to Hutto High School in Bainbridge to teach social studies before transferring to Hutto Junior High School in 1970, where he taught eighth and ninth grade.

Throughout his tenure of service on the Bainbridge City Council, Mr. Conyers has been a champion of education but most importantly, he has given his all to improving the community he serves. In recognition of his efforts, in 2008, Mr. Conyers was inducted into

the Georgia Municipal Government Hall of Fame, which “recognizes current and former city officials who have made extraordinary contributions to their communities and actively participated in the Association.” In 2012, he was one of four city officials to receive the prestigious Certificate of Distinction from the Georgia Municipal Training Institute at the Georgia Municipal Association’s (GMA) Annual Mayors’ Day Conference. He has actively served on GMA committees that oversee employee retirement benefits and training courses for leaders of cities across Georgia.

Mr. Conyers is heavily involved in the community and is a member of the Rotary Club, American Legion Post No. 502, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and Bainbridge-Decatur County Chamber of Commerce. He is also the City Council’s liaison to the city’s Planning Commission and teaches about planning and zoning issues during Bainbridge’s annual Student Government Days.

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays often said: “You make your living by what you get, you make your life by what you give.” Throughout his life, Mr. Conyers has done so much for so many for so long. He is an example of public service at its finest and his advocacy on behalf of students of all ages has been invaluable throughout the state of Georgia. His service to his country and his community are but a small testimony to the high caliber of character that he embodies.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me and my wife Vivian, and the more than 730,000 people of Georgia’s Second Congressional District, in recognizing and commending Mr. Luther Conyers for his leadership in education and service to his community.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION HONORING BERRY GORDY

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution honoring the achievements of Berry Gordy, Jr. and his musical legacy, Motown Records. By establishing the Motown record label in 1959 in Detroit, MI, Mr. Gordy cultivated the careers of musical legends such as Smokey Robinson, Michael Jackson, Diana Ross, Stevie Wonder, and many, many more. Not only did the music of Motown advance its way to the top of the charts and the front of the music scene with timeless hits such as “Please Mr. Postman” and “Ain’t No Mountain High Enough,” but it also communicated across race barriers and touched people regardless of the color of their skin. In a racially divided and politically charged time, Motown Records, under the leadership of Mr. Gordy, was the first to integrate an all-white sales department and produce music beloved by all.

Mr. Gordy’s accomplishments are reflected in his numerous awards and recognitions including his induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, his autobiography “To Be Loved: The Music, the Magic, the Memories of Motown,” and the Broadway success of “Motown The Musical.”

Decades after its inception, Motown is remembered as one of the most significant creative outlets of the 20th century, and the music it fostered continues to entertain and inspire us all. Thanks to Mr. Gordy, Motown created a uniquely American sound and defined the American experience for generations. Through this resolution, we recognize and thank Mr. Gordy for creating a timeless musical sound, for being a force of positive social change, and for his countless contributions to American culture.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I was not present in the House chamber for the following roll call votes. Had I been present on November 16th, 17th, 19th and 30th, I would have voted “yea” on roll calls 627, 628, 632, 640, 642, 644 and 645 and “nay” on roll calls 626, 629, 630, 631, 633, 638, 639, 641 and 643.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, on December 2, 2015, the House took roll call vote 644. I am recorded as voting “aye” on this amendment, but I want to reflect that I intended to vote “no” and oppose the Barton of Texas Amendment No. 25 to H.R. 8.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MAGGIE LOUISE KNIGHT KNOX

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to a terrific educator and beloved mother, grandmother and cousin, Mrs. Maggie Louise Knight Knox of Martin County, North Carolina. Sadly, Mrs. Knox passed away on Saturday, November 28, 2015. A Homegoing Celebration will be held on Friday, December 4, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at the Michigan Park Christian Church in Washington, D.C.

Born on February 3, 1928 to the late Annie Slade Knight and Eddie Knight, Maggie Louise Knight Knox, known as Louise or Lou to family and friends, grew up on the family farm in Martin County, North Carolina. She developed a passion for education early on and immediately upon graduation from Winston Salem State University, she began her teaching career within the Charles County Public School System.

Her abiding commitment to education was reflected in her personal academic achievements, as she pursued a higher level of edu-

cation with her enrollment at the D.C. Teachers’ College. She participated in the Teachers’ Program at Columbia University, culminating in her receipt of a Master’s Degree in Education at Trinity College. Ultimately, Maggie Louise accepted a tenured position as a third grade teacher at J.C. Nalle Elementary School in Southeast Washington, D.C.

After nurturing and educating three generations of students, Maggie Louise retired with more than thirty years of service as an educator. She was considered to be one of the most respected Reading Specialists in District of Columbia Public Schools. Even after her retirement and to this day, she is fondly remembered by many of her students.

Her passion for education mirrored her everlasting faith as a woman of God. Accepting Christ as her Savior at an early age, Maggie Louise began her Christian life in Martin County, North Carolina and continued her Christian journey in Washington, D.C. where she became an active member in Michigan Park Christian Church in 1960. She brought her God-given teaching talents into the church, teaching Vacation Bible School and Sunday school. She was a chairperson of the Diaconate and a member the Christian Women’s Fellowship. As is the church’s tradition, in her eightieth year of life, Maggie Louise Knight Knox was humbly inducted into the Diamond Club.

To Maggie Louise, family was everything. It was on May 5, 1950, in Washington, D.C., that Maggie Louise married her loving husband, Mr. Reese Conway Knox. Devoted and committed to each other, the union of Maggie Louise and Reese produced three beautiful daughters: Regina Louise, Denise Yvette and Edna Teresa.

On a more personal note, Maggie Louise and I are born of the same lineage—the Slades of North Carolina. The union of Simon and Anna Slade produced thirteen children. Of those children, Walter Columbus Slade (grandfather of Maggie Louise) and Robert Slade (my grandfather), were born. Maggie retained many valuable lessons from her youth, but the most important one came from her grandfather, Walter Columbus Slade: “Always stick together.” Maggie fervently adopted this as a guiding force throughout her life and passed that same value to her daughters and grandchildren. The concept of “staying together” is extremely important in our family. We annually gather for reunions throughout the nation and remain close with one another throughout our lives.

George Washington Carver once said, “How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong because someday in your life you will have been all of these.” Maggie Louise was a gentle and loving woman who treated all people with respect. She loved her God. Her wisdom and kindness goes unmatched, and her gentle soul served humanity in a special way. Each day she graced the people around her with an enthusiastic sincerity of presence. The impression she leaves on earth extends beyond herself to those whom she inspired and supported, and for it she will be remembered for time to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me and my wife, Vivian, in paying tribute to Mrs. Maggie