

RECOGNIZING THE 2015 HONOREES
OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY
BRANCH OF THE NAACP

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2015 Honorees of the Fairfax County Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The Fairfax Branch is recognized as the NAACP's first rural chapter. In 1915, a few brave African American citizens in Falls Church, Virginia, fought a proposed ordinance that would have segregated housing. They called themselves the Colored Citizens Protective League (CCPL) and the group evolved to become the Fairfax County Branch of the NAACP. Since its inception, the NAACP has promoted equal rights and justice for all and has shown a spotlight on issues of great importance including civil rights, education, voting rights, desegregation, and prison reform. I have been honored to work with this organization and pledge my continued support of our shared goals.

Each year, the Fairfax County NAACP honors several deserving individuals and organizations that have shown extraordinary support of the Branch or the community. I am honored to submit the names of the following award winners:

President's Awardees:

Cassie Marcotty, Abby Conde, Anna Rowan, Lidia Amanuel, and Marley Finley. These high school student leaders formed "Students of Change," now known as CAALM (an acronym of their initials), to spearhead the initiative to rename JEB Stuart High School as Thurgood Marshall High and to remove all symbols and mascots that honor the Confederate Legacy.

The President's Award will also be presented to Virginia House of Delegates member Scott A. Surovell of the 44th District, for his exceptional leadership and support to the communities of Hybla Valley and Gum Springs in southern Fairfax County.

Community Service Awardees:

Debbie Kilpatrick for her exceptional leadership, advocacy, and dedication as President of the Fairfax County Council of PTAs.

Celeste Peterson for establishing the Erin Peterson Scholarship Fund and her devotion to the Young Men's Leadership Group at Westfield High School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2015 honorees of the Fairfax County NAACP and in thanking them for their tremendous contributions to our youth and our community.

SISTER CITY AGREEMENT BE-TWEEN COLUMBUS AND ACCRA, GHANA

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the signing of a sister city agreement between

the City of Columbus and Accra, Ghana on November 30, 2015.

This is Columbus' tenth sister city agreement, but it is momentous because it is the city's first such agreement with a city on the African continent. I was privileged to attend and participate in the signing ceremony between Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman and Accra Mayor Alfred Vanderpuije.

Columbus, a diverse city, is home to nearly 10,000 people of Ghanaian descent and this partnership reinforces already firmly established ties between Columbus and Accra building economic, educational and cultural diversity between the two municipalities.

I am also proud to inform my colleagues that Franklin University and The Ohio State University are working with educational institutions in Ghana to create even greater academic and cultural exchanges.

As a City known for the Arts, Columbus' King Arts Complex is also working on a formal agreement to foster a relationship with the Ghana National Theatre.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the cities of Columbus, Ohio and Accra, Ghana for this historic agreement and look forward to a long and prosperous partnership.

S. 1177, THE EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Conference Report for S. 1177, the Every Student Succeeds Act, a bill which reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) through 2020 and replaces the misguided No Child Left Behind (NCLB) policy.

This bill makes important changes to ESEA by including student and school supports in state accountability plans, supporting responsible efforts to reduce over-testing, and requiring states to provide the public with information on school discipline and expulsion rates, which we know disproportionately impacts students of color. S. 1177 also maintains critical provisions about overall student performance by setting clear goals for achievement and graduation rates, targeting funds to at-risk children such as English Language Learners, and helping states to increase teacher quality by providing on-going professional development.

Yet I am concerned that this bill shifts the majority of power and oversight from the federal government to the states and does not do enough to protect disadvantaged, minority, LGBT, low-income, and migrant students. A strong Federal role is critical to ensuring that minority and underserved students get the support they need to succeed. And as a member of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I am concerned that this bill fails to include a requirement to disaggregate data within groups of Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) students. This is critical to ensuring that AAPI students receive the support they need. Moreover, S. 1177 fails to include strong accountability measures to ensure that schools address resource equity gaps.

As Members of Congress, we have a shared obligation to ensure that our education

system provides equity and excellence for all students, closes the achievement gap, and prepares our students for a 21st century workforce.

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD AND LYLA McCURDY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Harold and Lyla McCurdy for their service to the Congregate Meals Program of Panora, Iowa.

Lyla got her start at Congregate Meals as a part-time kitchen worker and bookkeeper. She is now responsible for all of the bookkeeping, organization, and set up each day. Her husband Harold now volunteers his time by organizing the carryout meals and doing what he can to help in the kitchen. The Congregate Meal program was created around 40 years ago in Panora. They now prepare hot and healthy meals each day for the community.

Mr. Speaker, Harold and Lyla's willingness to donate their time and talents to this program is a great testament to the Iowa spirit. I am honored to represent them and Iowans like them in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Harold and Lyla for their service and wishing them nothing but continued success.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF GUY LEWIS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Thanksgiving is meant to remind us of all the things in our lives we're grateful for. For many, this year's Thanksgiving came and went in its usual form: spent in the presence of loved ones and those who are closest to our hearts. But for others, this Thanksgiving was spent under a bittersweet shadow. Early that morning, Houstonians, Cougar alumni, basketball fans, and many others bid farewell to a legend: Guy Lewis.

Guy Lewis was more than just a basketball coach. His innovations, both on and off the court, left ripples in our society that we still feel today. He was born in a tiny town in East Texas, where he lived until enlisting in the Army during World War II. Following the war, Lewis enrolled at the University of Houston, my alma mater, and joined the basketball team. He was instantly one of the best players on the team, averaging over 21 points per game as he led the Cougars to a conference championship. After college he worked as an assistant coach at UH under then-coach Alden Pasche. After Pasche's retirement in 1956, Lewis was appointed the new head coach of the Cougars; and the rest, as they say, is history.

Under Lewis' 30-year watch, the Cougars enjoyed one of the best spells in collegiate basketball history. He led his teams to 27 straight winning seasons, 14 NCAA tournament appearances, 5 Final Fours, and two

NCAA title games. Though he never won a national title, he is still universally recognized as one of the greatest coaches in the history of the game. Despite all of his successes on the court, it was his actions off the court that many use to define Coach Lewis' lasting legacy.

Prior to Guy Lewis, the University of Houston had never had an African-American player in its basketball program. According to former All-American, NBA All-Star, and member of Houston's first desegregated basketball team, Elvin Hayes, Lewis "put everything on the line to step out and integrate his program." It was trailblazing like this and his fearless attitude that set Coach Lewis apart from the rest. Guy Lewis didn't care about what people thought, but he cared about doing what was right for his players and his school. He dedicated 40 years to the university as a student and as a coach, from his first day of college in 1946 through his last day as a coach in 1986. Even after his retirement Lewis was heavily involved with the school and its athletic department. His dedication to the institution he called home, the institution he helped evolve for the better, never once wavered.

I remember sitting in the stands of the Astrodome in 1968 watching the "Game of the Century" that Coach Lewis helped organize. The undefeated UCLA Bruins, led by legendary coach John Wooden, came into the game riding a 47-game winning streak. This was the first nationally televised regular season collegiate basketball game in the history of the sport. Over 52,000 fans—myself included—went to the game, which set the record for the largest basketball crowd in history. I remember that game fondly. I can still see Coach Lewis on the sideline waving his red, polka-dotted towel that he seemed to always have with him. Led by the previously mentioned Elvin Hayes, the Houston Cougars went on to win 71–69.

After coaching the Cougars to back-to-back Final Fours in 1967 and '68, he then guided his team to a trio of Final Fours in 1982, '83, and '84. Those teams, known simply as "Phi Slama Jama," featured superstars Clyde Drexler and Hakeem Olajuwon, two members of both the NCAA and NBA Halls of Fame. Those teams emphasized a fast-paced, exciting style of play that helped revolutionize the game forever.

When remembering Coach Lewis, we needn't just remember the legendary wins or the legendary players that he coached, but also his integrity and dedication. Whether it was his innovative work on the court or off, all of us familiar with the life of Coach Lewis have nothing but fond memories of the man. His legacy will live on.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRATULATING THE HERCULANEUM HIGH SCHOOL BLACK CATS FOR THEIR SECOND PLACE FINISH IN THE 2015 MISSOURI CLASS 2 GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in con-

gratulating the Herculaneum Black Cats for their second place finish in the 2015 Class 2 State Girls Cross Country Championship.

This team and their coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the second place win to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing the Herculaneum Black Cats for a job well done.

GLENN HALL ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, heartiest congratulations to Glenn Hall on the occasion of his 90th birthday and a lifetime of teaching and learning. His career in education began in a one-room schoolhouse in 1954, but he has taught every grade level, including graduate school, since then. While teaching at a Florida community college, in 1961, he received a Fulbright grant to teach English and American history in the Netherlands. Upon his return, he heard of the opening of a new community college in Bucks County, Pennsylvania and in 1965 was among the first instructors hired. During a 35-year teaching career at Bucks County Community College in Newtown Township, he also was Dean of Academic Affairs for 14 years. And in 1976 he was among the first group of educators to visit China after the communist takeover in 1949. As we congratulate Glenn Hall on this milestone birthday, we express our gratitude for his honorable service in the U.S. Navy and his contributions to the academic community and especially the students he inspired. May his future be filled with good health, happiness and new adventures.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,789,064,366,804.18. We've added \$8,162,187,317,891.10 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING THE EL PASO VETERANS' TREATMENT COURT

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today in recognition of the El Paso Veterans' Treatment Court Program, presided over by the Honorable Angie Juarez Barill and

operating out of the 346th District Court of El Paso, Texas. I am pleased to recognize the El Paso Veterans' Treatment Court Program as an initiative that works hard to "leave no veteran behind and honor their service."

As the second program of its kind in the state of Texas, the El Paso Veterans' Treatment Court Program has provided resources to numerous Veterans in the criminal justice system. Since 2009, the initiative has aided eligible Veterans and active duty Service Members who are charged with misdemeanor criminal offenses; in 2012 the program was expanded to include felony criminal offenses. The participants are diverted from the traditional criminal justice system and are assessed for substance abuse and mental health issues. Upon meeting program entrance requirements, participants receive an individualized treatment plan and attend frequent review hearings before the program judge.

In addition to providing comprehensive substance abuse and mental health treatment, the five phase program also includes officials from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to determine the Veteran participants' eligibility for further aid. The Veterans Benefits Administration assesses the Veteran for disability compensation, education benefits, and vocational rehabilitation qualifications. The Veterans Health Administration also assesses the Veteran to determine eligibility for housing and medical services. The program operates on a personal level as well, in order to address employment opportunities and individual needs.

The El Paso Veterans' Treatment Court Program provides an alternative route for Veterans and active duty Service Members in the criminal justice system. The initiative practices a holistic approach, providing resources, addressing treatment concerns and engaging in judicial monitoring. These necessary tools help participants engage in society as law-abiding citizens. The initiative has been widely successful in El Paso and recently received the prestigious Texas Veterans Commission Patriot Award in recognition of their diligence. I am proud that programs such as the El Paso Veterans' Treatment Court exist in my district and are available to help those who served our country.

BRINGING FFA GOLD TO PEARLAND

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Evann Wehman of Turner High School for winning her second state championship at the Texas Future Farmers of America (FFA) Leadership Development Events Competition.

Evann, who is also her school's FFA President, won the state competition last weekend at Sam Houston State University. Her victory at the state competition earned her a spot at the National FFA Convention next October in Indianapolis. Evann has a history of success as part of the horse judging team that won the first ever state championship by Pearland FFA students. That team went on to national success and placed eighth in the nation. Her impressive accomplishments reflect her hard