

Established partly in response to the horrific lynchings of the early 1900s, the group quickly expanded, focusing many of its early battles on the court system and legalized segregation. With the stated purpose of securing the rights guaranteed by the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments for all Americans, the NAACP worked tirelessly to secure equal protection under the law and the right to vote.

With the founding of the NAACP's Legal Defense Fund in 1939, America saw the brilliant litigation strategy of Charles Hamilton Houston and Thurgood Marshall as they advocated for the famous *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, which many credit with beginning the modern Civil Rights Movement.

As the 20th century neared its close, and African Americans experienced the transition from the overt racism that plagues the Jim Crow South to urban areas plagued by poverty and crime. Again, the NAACP adopted its mantra to meet this challenge and remains a relevant advocate improving the lives of Blacks in America.

I rise to recognize and celebrate the 106 year history of the NAACP's advocacy and. From the early 20th century, fighting for Blacks to serve as officers in World War I, to the present day efforts to address disparities in economic access and the criminal justice system, the NAACP continues to fulfill its mission of providing a voice to the voiceless and improving the quality of life for all Americans.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NORTHERN ROCKIES ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2015

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, the destruction caused by natural disasters across the country affirms the need to address climate change. Conservation efforts that protect wildlife ecosystems help to mitigate these climate concerns as well as provide lands for all Americans to enjoy.

Today, I am proud to introduce legislation that helps preserve the northern Rockies—one of our country's vital environmental regions. The Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act will safeguard 23 million acres by establishing a system to connect biological corridors on public lands in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Oregon, and Washington. It prioritizes the health of whole ecosystems by designating all of the inventoried roadless areas as wilderness, including wild and scenic rivers. This designation helps ensure the preservation of native plants and animals.

It's our responsibility to preserve our country's natural treasures for our own and future generations. I thank my colleague Public Lands Subcommittee Ranking Member RAÚL GRIJALVA for his longstanding support. I urge others to join us in helping to protect these public lands.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2015

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed the following votes:

Roll Call vote number 79 regarding the "Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 644". Had I been present, I would have voted "Yes".

Roll Call vote number 80 regarding the "Fighting Hunger Incentive Act of 2015". Had I been present, I would have voted "No".

On the Motion to Adjourn on February 12, 2015. Had I been present, I would have voted "No".

THE "FORT PAYNE 7" REAL WORLD DESIGN TEAM

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2015

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize and congratulate the success of the Fort Payne High School Real World Design Team, known as the "Fort Payne 7."

The "Fort Payne 7" team, with assistance from sponsor Hannah Turner, competed in the Real World Design team state challenge in 2013 and the national challenge in 2014.

The 2013 Real World Design Challenge was to design an unmanned aerial vehicle that detects agricultural pests in a one-mile by one-mile cornfield in Fort Dodge, Iowa. After winning the state challenge, the team utilized the summer and fall months to complete the national challenge.

The national challenge was held in Washington, D.C., on November 15, 2014. The national challenge team was made up of members Hunter Vezertis, Noah Wofford, Matthew Wilding, Joshua Johnston, Hunter Terry, and Regan Anderson with Hannah Turner as the team coach and sponsor. Since then, the team has expanded with the addition of Jayden Parris, Ansley Grider, Harley Tate, and Emma Simpson.

We are very proud of the "Fort Payne 7" and I want to congratulate them on their success, hard work and dedication. Competitions like these and the lessons learned will serve these young people for many years to come. I look forward to forwarding the students and their continued success.

RECOGNIZING MEXICO'S SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, ENRIQUE MARTINEZ Y MARTINEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2015

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Mexico's Secretary of Agriculture, Enrique Martinez y Martinez.

Secretary Martinez y Martinez's career has been characterized by extraordinary leader-

ship and service to the people of Mexico. Before beginning his career, Secretary Martinez y Martinez attended the Monterrey Institute of Technology, where he majored in economics. From 1976 to 1978, he served as State of Coahuila Treasury Undersecretary in charge of revenues. He next served as Mayor of Saltillo, Capital of the State of Coahuila from 1979 to 1981. In 1981, he became Coahuila State General Secretary, and served in this position until 1987.

Other leadership roles Secretary Martinez y Martinez has held include Chairman of the State Electoral Commission, State of Coahuila Municipal Development Director, Chairman of the National Conference of Governors (CONAGO), Chairman of the Border Governors Conference, Chairman of the Public Administration National Institute in the State of Coahuila, Federal Congressman in Mexico's 54th and 57th Congress, Chairman of the Regional Development and Production Support Committee, and Member of the Treasury and Public Credit Committee. From 1999 to 2005, he served as Governor of the State of Coahuila. He assumed the role Secretary of the Agriculture, Cattle Industry, Rural Development, Fishery and Food Ministry in 2012. Secretary Enrique Martinez y Martinez's service exemplifies a shining example of humility and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize Mexico's Secretary of Agriculture, Enrique Martinez y Martinez for his many accomplishments and great contributions to our neighbor to the south.

RECOGNIZING TOLEDO MAYOR D. MICHAEL COLLINS

HON. MARCY KAPUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2015

Ms. KAPUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the noble life of Toledo Mayor D. Michael Collins, a true American and public servant whose life was tragically cut short. Mr. Collins was sworn into office one year ago as the 62nd Mayor of Toledo, Ohio, and every day he showed his dedication to the words "duty" and "honor." An Irish-American from the South End of Toledo, he was a son and a father of Toledo. The love that our community felt for Mayor Collins was shown by the thousands who attended his wake and funeral this week.

He served honorably with an honest soul that ferried our great city through a very difficult year. Dedicated to the people of Toledo, he spent his entire adult life and work serving our community and country.

Following his high school graduation he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, attaining the rank of Corporal, and every day exemplified the motto of the Corps, Semper Fidelis, "Always Faithful." After returning home, his public service continued for nearly three decades with the Toledo Police Department. He was later elected President of the Toledo Police Patrolmen's Association. In 2007, he ran for City Council and quickly earned a reputation as a problem solver with deep knowledge of the City's finances and budget. He ran for Mayor in 2013 in a heavily contested race, won with broad public support and was sworn into his first term.

Mayor Collins lived the City's motto "Laborare est Orare," to work and to pray. He assiduously applied himself to every task he undertook. Throughout his life, he was an indefatigable learner attaining many degrees that served him well in his leadership roles. He also taught at his alma mater, the University of Toledo.

During his time as Mayor, he shepherded the City through three major crises: the tragic loss of two firefighters in an arson-related fire, the shutoff of City water for three days because of contamination by algal blooms in Lake Erie due to cyanotoxins, and, most recently, a snow emergency of the highest level. Through it all, Mayor Collins' steady leader-

ship, humble manner, and broad smile gave confidence to the public.

On behalf of our entire community, I extend my deepest condolences to his beloved wife Sandy, who was always at his side, and to his daughters and grandchildren. Our citizenry has been blessed to know him, to work with him and for his service to us. May God bless him and bring him peaceful rest.