

When I was in high school, it was nearly impossible for young women of color to become cheerleaders. At the time, I was participating in a work-study program at Pacoima Memorial Lutheran Credit Union and my boss, John Mance, was a member of the local NAACP Board. Together, he and Carl McCraven, the CEO of the credit union, worked to change the rules so anyone should try out to be a cheerleader. Thanks to them, I was able to cheer for the Tigers!

We all know their great contributions that the NAACP has made to our nation:

From their largest legal victory in *Brown v. the Board of Education*, under the leadership of Special Counsel Thurgood Marshall—to their central role in the successful battles to overturn Jim Crow.

Today, the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization continues to engage in groundbreaking and critical work to combat disparity and inequality in our society.

Today, they boldly stand against repressive voter ID laws, economic inequality and mass incarceration.

We know that inequality persists—the unemployment rate among African Americans is nearly twice the rate of their white counterparts and the African American poverty rate is nearly three times the poverty rate of white Americans.

These statistics paint a clear picture of inequality in America.

The American dream of equality, freedom, liberty, justice and opportunity should be open to all and the NAACP is working day-in and day-out to ensure that all Americans have an opportunity to achieve the American dream.

I am proud that the NAACP has been a dedicated and constant partner and advocate.

I am proud to join my colleagues in honoring the NAACP's 106th anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

EVANGELINE BEST

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the outstanding and invaluable contributions of African Americans during Black History Month and all year long. I am proud to pay tribute to African American men and women who exemplify the spirit of selfless and patriotic service.

I rise today to pay tribute to a truly gifted leader of the Tampa Bay community, Evangeline Best. Her boundless energy and unending civic engagement are an inspiration to all. Today, I am grateful to recognize her innumerable contributions to Hillsborough County.

Evangeline Best is a native Floridian who was raised in Tampa. She earned a Bachelor's degree from St. Augustine's College in Raleigh, North Carolina and a Masters in Education at Florida A&M University. Ms. Best has been a tireless advocate for community development and education as a means of ending poverty. Ms. Best's impressive career in education began in Tampa where she worked for over 27 years as a Family Services Worker for Hillsborough County Schools and completed

the last 5 years as the Family Services Coordinator.

Beyond Ms. Best's professional career, she also committed her personal life to the betterment of her neighbors in Hillsborough County. She served as Chairman of the East Tampa School Community Partnership as well as Vice Chairwoman of the Heart of East Tampa-Front Porch, Inc. Both are organizations critical to the success of East Tampa and Hillsborough County. Currently she serves on a number of vital committees including Vice Chair of the Corporation to Develop Communities in Tampa, Inc., and as a member of the Board of Directors with the West Central Florida Area Aging Advisory Committee, as well as a member of the Florida State Fair Diversity Committee. She also volunteers weekly with the Abe Brown Ministries Family Reunification Video Visitation Program and is a consultant for REACH UP, Inc.

Given her outstanding efforts, Ms. Best has received a number of honors and awards including the 2010 Bank of America "Volunteer Hero Award", the 2005 National Head Start Association "Lifetime Achievement Award", and the 2005 Neighborhood Works New Horizons "Dorothy Richardson Award" for Community Leadership and Commitment Revitalization America's Neighborhoods. Her accomplishments include 50 years of community involvement as a member of the First Baptist Church of College Hill, the Tampa Urban League, as well as the Hillsborough Educators Association.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Best's diligent and unrelenting service has made my Tampa Bay community a better place to live—one filled with more hope and opportunities because of her attention and love for others. She has set an example of how to be a devoted public servant, mother, and friend. Please join me in celebrating her outstanding efforts to make this world a better place.

GLYN AND ALAN MASI

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the West Chamber's Ambassadors of the Year, Glyn and Alan Masi, for their outstanding commitment to the local community.

Glyn and Alan own Ticker Tuners, a local business in Morrison with a mission they are both passionate about: helping people identify, treat and monitor their heart health. In addition, Glyn and Alan attend every ribbon cutting, open house or other event where help is needed and involve West Chamber members and local businesses.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Glyn and Alan Masi for the honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt they will exhibit the same commitment to their community in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE 149TH ANNIVERSARY OF ANTIOCH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH IN HOUSTON, TEXAS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the legendary Antioch Missionary Baptist Church in Houston, Texas, which this year celebrates 149 years of service to the greater Houston community and the nation.

For more than a half century, under the leadership of the Rev. F.N. Williams, Sr., the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, now led by Rev. O.B. Winkley, has provided material support and spiritual sanctuary to the least of God's children and used the prophetic voice of the church to speak truth to power.

Mr. Speaker, in January 1866, seven months after slaves were freed in Texas (June 19, 1865), a small group of freed slaves, assisted by the First Baptist Church and missionaries, organized the first African American Baptist Church in Houston, Texas.

After holding worship services at the First Baptist Church and the German Baptist Church, church members began to hold services on Buffalo Bayou in "Brush Arbor."

Later, the church moved to "Baptist Hill" located at Rusk and Bagby until the present site was purchased.

In 1868, one of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church's members, Jack Yates, was ordained at the first meeting of the Association of African American Baptist Churches.

Rev. Jack Yates became the first pastor of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church and as the membership grew and additional space was needed, Rev. Yates led the church to purchase its present site and build a brick structure.

Antioch Missionary Baptist Church's new home was the first brick structure built and owned by African-Americans in Houston, and was located in the center of Freedman's Town and was the center of activity for the African-American community.

Antioch Missionary Baptist Church provided the former slaves with opportunities to worship the Lord, but also established ministries to help them develop educationally, economically and socially.

With the help of two missionaries, Rev. Yates began the Baptist Academy, which taught such fundamental skills as reading, writing, and arithmetic, and provided vocational training to enable men and women to start their own businesses.

Mr. Speaker, Baptist Academy would later become Houston College, the forerunner of Texas Southern University.

Under Rev. Yates' leadership, church members were encouraged and assisted in buying property, owning homes, and developing businesses.

The Old Landmark Baptist Association of Texas was organized at Antioch and Emancipation Park was purchased in a joint venture with Trinity Methodist Church to provide green space to engage in recreational activities and hold community celebrations, such as Juneteenth.

Mr. Speaker, I take great pride in recognizing the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church

and the Rev. O.B. Winkley on the occasion of its 149th Anniversary and its nearly century and half of service to the Houston community.

HONORING WORLD WAR II
VETERAN WARREN S. PAYNE, SR.

HON. CHRIS COLLINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor Warren Payne Sr., a World War II veteran whose service to our country and love for his family embody the values of the Greatest Generation.

Mr. Payne was born in Niagara Falls in 1921 and enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in August of 1942. He served in the European Theater of Operations with the 452nd Bomb Group, participating in the air campaign to fight for our nation's freedom. In July 1944, his bomber crashed while on a mission over Germany, and he and his crew became prisoners of war. Following a long, forced march in the snow, he and his fellow servicemen were finally freed in April 1945.

After he returned home from the war, Mr. Payne decided to join the family business, Payne's Hardware and Floor Covering. He ran this business in Niagara Falls for 50 years until his retirement in 1997. He is remembered by his family and friends for his kindness and generosity and was an active volunteer at St. Mary of the Cataract Church in Niagara Falls.

Warren passed away on July 7, 2007, survived by Grace, his wife of 61 years, 11 children—Warren Jr., William, John, James, Michael, Suzanne, Michele, Tricia, Christine, Laurie, and Caroline—31 grandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren.

I am proud to honor a veteran, small businessman, and hero from New York's 27th district.

HONORING 1ST SERGEANT
RICHARD PINTER

HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 1st Sergeant Richard Pinter of New Jersey's Third Congressional District, and to express my deepest condolences to his family and friends.

Sgt. Pinter served our country as a 1st Sergeant in the Army and is well known in our district as the "Lone Bugler" for honoring fallen soldiers and veterans at their funerals. Sgt. Pinter served as a bugler in the Army for thirty-eight years and eventually rose to the position of Commander and Enlisted Bandleader of the 267th Army Band in Philadelphia.

Sgt. Pinter has also given much of his time to his community as an active member of the American Legion of Bordentown Township, Association of the National Guard, Vietnam Veterans Association and the American Hungarian Civic Association.

Mr. Speaker, the people of New Jersey's Third Congressional District are tremendously grateful for Sgt. Richard Pinter's service to our nation and unique place in our district's culture. It is my honor to recognize his life and achievements before the United States House of Representatives. May he rest in peace.

INTRODUCING THE AFRICAN DESCENT AFFAIRS ACT IN RECOGNITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill recognizing persons of African descent and to support a resolution authored by my colleague Representative HANK JOHNSON to commemorate the start of the International Decade for People of African Descent.

As our country fights to realize justice for Eric Garner, Tamir Rice, Aiyana Jones, John Warner, Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, and many others, we must not forget the names—Stephen Lawrence, Oury Jalloh, Mark Duggan, Zyed Benna, Bouna Traore and many others who are victims of similar injustices in Europe and elsewhere around the world.

The International Decade provides an opportunity to join efforts with countries across the globe to, over the next decade, develop and implement national strategies honoring the vast contributions of people of African Descent, and to combat continuing issues of prejudice and discrimination such as those currently gripping our nation. To aid these efforts, I am proud to support Representative JOHNSON's resolution commemorating the International Decade.

I have also introduced the African Descent Affairs Act. The Act to improve the situation of people of African descent around the world, by establishing a Global Office of African Descent Affairs within the U.S. State Department that would implement strategies for people of African descent; create a "President Obama Fund" to support anti-discrimination and empowerment efforts by African descent led civil society organizations; and require that the Annual State Department Human Rights Reports include a section on discrimination faced by people of African descent. U.S. foreign policy strategies such as these have improved the situation of vulnerable groups internationally. Furthermore, it would greatly assist in responding to the increasing levels of prejudice and discrimination faced by people of African descent around the globe.

Mr. Speaker, the International Decade reaffirms the importance of inclusion, as well as full and equal participation of people of African descent around the world in all aspects of political, economic, social, and cultural life. I encourage my colleagues to join me in recognizing and celebrating the collective history and achievements made by people of African descent on the occasion of the launch of the International Decade by supporting this important resolution.

ROCKLEY MUSIC CENTER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the Rockley Family for their outstanding service and commitment to their community with their business, the Rockley Music Center.

Founded in 1946 at Colfax and Wadsworth, Melvin and Mildred Rockley, the first generation, began selling print music, record players, band and orchestral instruments, along with washers, dryers and other appliances. The business was passed on to Melvin's son Bob and his wife Nina in the 1960s at which time the business was expanded and added teaching studios. In the 1980s, the third generation, Tobin and Robin, joined the business.

Today the center includes a foundation run by Tobin and his wife Diane. Over the years, the Rockley Family has become a Lakewood icon. It is for their ongoing support of the community, Colfax BID and the Jefferson County Public Schools that the Rockley Family and the Rockley Music Center is a deserving recipient of the Steve Burkholder Diamond Legacy Award.

I extend my deepest congratulations to the Rockley Family for their honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt the Rockley Family will exhibit the same dedication and service in all future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for votes taken on Thursday, February 12, and Friday, February 13, because I was traveling with the President and participating in a forum on cybersecurity. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Roll Call Vote Number 77 (Previous Question Motion on H. Res. 101): No

Roll Call Vote Number 78 (Passage of H. Res. 101): No

Roll Call Vote Number 79 (Motion to Recommit H.R. 644, the America Gives More Act of 2015): Yes

Roll Call Vote Number 80 (Passage of H.R. 644, the America Gives More Act of 2015): Yes

Roll Call Vote Number 81 (Motion to Recommit H.R. 636, the America's Small Business Tax Relief Act of 2015): Yes

Roll Call Vote Number 82 (Passage of H.R. 636, the America's Small Business Tax Relief Act of 2015): No

Roll Call Vote Number 83 (Approving of the Journal): Yes