

goal of serving his nation as a United States soldier.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate Mr. Sutton Norris.

LEW WILLIAMS

**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 honor the life of a true champion of education, Lew Williams. His 36-year career in public service and his tireless efforts to improve the lives of children will be remembered forever. Born in Baker County, Georgia, Mr. Williams grew up in poverty and knew education was his ticket to a better life. He earned his Bachelor's Degree from Allen University in Columbia, South Carolina and his Masters Degree from South Carolina State University. He married his beloved wife, Arthurene Sims and they had two children: Brandi, a literacy specialist at Melrose Elementary, and Brandon, a student at Stetson University College of Law.

In 1970, Mr. Williams began his career in education as a social studies teacher at Dunedin Middle. He soon rose to be principal of Fairmount Park, South Ward, Dunedin Elementary, and Seminole Middle as well as Pinellas Park High. He became the Director of School Operations in 1987 and was promoted to Associate Superintendent for Pupil Assignment and Area II Superintendent of Pinellas County Schools before his retirement in 2005. Mr. Williams was elected to Pinellas County School Board in 2010.

Although Mr. Williams was a soft-spoken man, when he spoke people listened. In his tireless dedication to his students, he wanted not only to educate them through books, but to equip them with life skills to succeed. He recognized the challenges that low-income and minority students faced, so he worked tirelessly to build relationships and connect with children and their families. He constantly pushed to create opportunities for those students some may have forgotten.

Mr. Williams always seemed to have the pulse of the district's needs and how to address them. He faced budget crises head-on while closing the achievement gap between races and income levels. He saw the need and spearheaded an effort to implement measures that dealt with chronically disruptive students in ways that integrated rather than alienated. He strived to give parents the tools they need to help their children succeed in academics and life.

After his retirement in 2005, he and his wife ran a preschool and he subsequently won the School Board seat. His slogan was "Keep the main thing the main thing." And that philosophy defined his approach of always putting children first regardless of status or race. Mr. Williams passed away December 3, 2011 but his legacy will live on through the many student's lives he has changed for the better.

TRIBUTE TO AUTUMN GADOUA

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a very special 7th grader from Hamburg, Iowa, located in the 3rd Congressional District which I represent. Autumn Gadoua is the statewide winner in the Iowa League of Cities 5th Annual "If I Were Mayor" essay contest.

This annual essay contest allows students to form and express ideas regarding citizenship and leadership. Autumn and the other district winners are being recognized today at a ceremony at the Iowa State Capitol Building in Des Moines.

In her essay Autumn wrote that if she were mayor of her hometown she would pursue policies that preserve the town's history and the historical brick buildings for current and new businesses. She notes that this policy would connect the past to the present and promote growth for the future.

Mayor Gadoua would also work for opportunities to help businesses thrive, bring new businesses and families to the town, promote green solutions, recycling, and support police officers and firefighters to keep them and the citizens of the community safe.

Autumn concluded her essay by saying, "I would visit the school in my community to teach children the responsibilities of a mayor and give examples of good citizenship. To help children grow and learn, I would establish an after school youth club. Being mayor is a big responsibility, but one that is rewarding and important to me."

I applaud and congratulate Autumn for her award winning essay and for proving that the next generation of leaders in Iowa and this nation are already preparing for their time of service. I am proud to represent Autumn and her family, her teachers and fellow students in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues join me in congratulating Autumn Gadoua and wishing her well and continued success in the future.

HONORING ADAM CEARLEY

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2015*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional young man whose financial acumen just made his college expenses less of a burden. In the process of doing so, he's learned some valuable life skills.

Round Rock High School freshman Adam Cearley was awarded a \$20,000 scholarship after ranking sixth among 11,000 students nationwide in the H&R Block Budget Challenge. This innovative two-month, in-school simulation tasked students to manage money online based on a fictional profile. Students received a virtual salary, which they used to pay bills, invest in retirement, and manage loans to get points. Adam took to the challenging project early on, impressing both his peers and his teachers with his sound money management.

Not only does the simulation serve as a fun activity to ease students into business lessons, it's important for teenagers to learn financial lessons early. The skills teens like Adam learn from this will serve them well throughout their lives.

Young leaders like Adam Cearley show that the future for our nation is a bright one. I congratulate him on his great achievement and wish him nothing but the best in the years ahead.

JIM AND KATE CURTIS

**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 Jim and Kate Curtis for their outstanding dedication to their local community.

Owners of the Village Roaster since 1979, Jim and Kate Curtis have been proudly providing Jefferson County and Lakewood residents with some of the best coffee, tea, spices and gift selections from around the world. In addition to running the Village Roaster, the two have worked to support their community for their entire lives continually giving of themselves and their coffee.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jim and Kate Curtis for their honor as Members of the Year by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt they will exhibit the same community service and dedication in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TRANSIT  
TAX PARITY ACT OF 2015

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2015*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Transit Tax Parity Act of 2015. The bill would expand federal commuter tax benefits for transit and make them equal to those for parking. Currently, the transit benefit is half the level of the parking benefit. This bill would permanently raise the transit benefit to equal the parking benefit for commuters, in an effort to equalize the commuter options and to reduce congestion and pollution.

This bill would encourage commuters to use transit by equalizing tax benefits for mass transit and parking benefits at a time when transit systems have precipitously lost riders because of the inequality in benefits. Congress did the sensible thing when it increased the commuter benefit cap to be the same as parking in previous years, but when that parity ended, transit benefits decreased to \$130, just over half the benefits for driving. The decrease in transit benefits has led to a striking reduction in transit system ridership across the country. For example, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), the second largest transit system in the nation, runs throughout the national capital region and has seen a 25 percent decrease in Metrorail commuters, with riders switching to alternative means of commuting once they reach the

\$130 limit. Congressional action is urgently needed to make federal tax benefits for transit and parking equal at \$250.

Millions of people commute in and out of cities every day, bolstering the American economy and improving the overall well-being of the country. Why would we want to encourage people to drive rather than use mass transit? At the very least, there is no excuse for preferential treatment of driving. There are also environmental benefits that result from encouraging commuters to use mass transit and commuter rail instead of driving. Greater use of transit is consistent with the goals of reducing pollution from auto emissions, improving public health and reducing traffic congestion, which adds huge costs to the American economy and disrupts family life.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

JETIE WILDS

**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, Mr. Jetie Wilds. Mr. Wilds dedicated his life to educating people about public service, bringing communities together, and inspiring a way forward for all people in Tampa. Today it is a privilege for me to honor his incredible legacy.

Mr. Wilds was born in Tampa, Florida to a family of 12 children. At a young age, Mr. Wilds volunteered on political campaigns and developed a passion for political activism and engagement. This strong commitment to bettering the community led him to Morehouse College in Atlanta where he obtained a Bachelor's degree. He was deeply involved in the civil rights movement by regularly participating in peace marches and sit-ins. During this time, Mr. Wilds married his wife of over 49 years, Ozepher. Mr. Wilds then began his career staying true to his roots as a public servant by becoming a middle school math teacher.

Mr. Wilds' public advocacy was not limited to civil rights; he was an ardent environmentalist who served as a community organizer for greater environmental regulations in Portland, Oregon. While there, he obtained a Master's degree in urban planning at Portland State University. His knowledge of environmental policy later led him to Washington, D.C. where he conducted research on the impact of environmental regulations on the African American community.

Mr. Wilds returned to Tampa in 1996 and spearheaded his now locally renowned radio show, *Citizen's Report*. During each broadcast, Mr. Wilds brought to light the significant issues facing the Tampa Bay community. He quickly developed a rapport with his audience because of his intellect and candor that kept the show on air for over 15 years. His efforts to educate and inspire action on important political issues continued through his weekly col-

umn in Tampa's trilingual newspaper, *La Gaceta*. This column consistently provided a profound perspective on issues that transcended cultural and racial boundaries.

Mr. Wilds' leadership and tireless work earned him numerous accolades including Man of the Year from the Portland Junior Chamber of Commerce, Boss of the Year from the Professional Women's Organization and Distinguished College Alumnus from the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education.

Mr. Wilds will always be remembered as a leader who united people of all races and ethnicities for the common cause of community betterment. Whether he was running for office, teaching a class or providing an insightful voice for our community on the radio—Jetie Wilds was a true public servant. On September 21, 2014, Mr. Wilds passed away at the age of 74. Mr. Speaker, I join the Tampa Bay community in thanking Mr. Jetie Wilds, Jr. for his lifelong service to the State of Florida.

IN HONOR OF MRS. MILDRED  
PARISH MASSEY

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2015*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional woman and outstanding citizen, Mrs. Mildred Parish Massey. Sadly, Mrs. Massey, the mother of our dear friend and colleague, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, passed away on Monday, February 16, 2015. Funeral services will be held on Thursday, February 26, 2015 at Allen Temple Baptist Church in Oakland, California.

Mildred Parish Massey was born in El Paso, Texas on June 6, 1924 to William Calhoun and Willie Pointer Parish. With her sisters, Juanita and Lois, Mrs. Massey attended Douglass Elementary and High School in El Paso, where she played the saxophone in the band and marched in the Sun Bowl Parade. She then earned a scholarship to attend Tillotson College in Austin, Texas and later transferred to Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana to study business administration. After college, Mrs. Massey worked for a time as registrar and secretary to the president of what is now Norfolk State University in Portsmouth, Virginia. She then returned to El Paso and gave birth to three daughters between 1946 and 1952, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, Mrs. Mildred Whitfield and Mrs. Beverly Hardy.

Mrs. Massey's daughters never had to look far for an outstanding role model. While at Southern University, Mrs. Massey had boycotted a sorority which barred a friend from pledging because of the darkness of her skin. She even organized for revered civil rights leader Mary McLeod Bethune to go to the university to help change the policy. Because of Mrs. Massey's efforts, the discriminatory practice was ended. Then, when El Paso began integrating its public schools, she was one of the first seven African-American students to integrate Texas Western College, now the University of Texas at El Paso.

Mrs. Massey made history by being the first African American to be hired in not one, but

multiple positions. She was the first black clerical worker at Ft. Bliss, Texas in the Postal Locator. After she moved to San Fernando, California in 1960, she was the first African American to work at the Raymond Lamp Company, at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Sylmar, California, as Assistant Manager of the Lerner Dress Store in Panorama City, California, and as Manager of the Rembrandt Sign Company in San Fernando. In short, Mrs. Massey's life in and of itself was a testament to the advancement of African Americans before, during, and after the Civil Rights Movement.

Mrs. Massey was not only a trailblazer but also a devoted mother. At one point, she worked three jobs to support her daughters and aging father. Mrs. Massey was so dedicated to her children that after her retirement, she worked for another twelve years to help found and manage her daughter Congresswoman BARBARA LEE's business. Throughout her life, this love and devotion continued to extend to not just her daughters, but her seven grandchildren, sixteen great grandchildren and one great, great grandchild as well.

Maya Angelou once said, "A great soul serves everyone all the time. A great soul never dies."

Mrs. Massey is one such great soul, who served humanity in a special way. Each day she graced the people around her with an enthusiastic sincerity of presence. Her impression on this 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. Mildred Parish Massey for the inspiring life that she led. We stand united with Congresswoman BARBARA LEE and we extend our deepest sympathies to her family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time. We pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SNAP  
WORK OPPORTUNITY ACT

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2015*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, due to a policy oversight, 1 million adults who are looking for work but are unsuccessful at risk to lose their eligibility for Supplement Nutrition Assistance Benefits in 2016. My Colleague Representative SUZAN DELBENE and I are introducing simple legislation today that would address this issue, and ensure no one falls through the cracks. Our bill is called the SNAP Work Opportunity Act.

The SNAP work requirement was established on the assumption that anyone who couldn't find work would take part in a job training or workfare program in order to continue receiving SNAP benefits. Unfortunately, as former President Clinton highlighted when he signed the bill into law, there is not also a requirement for states to offer their unemployed citizens an opportunity to participate in