

Florida State, where he also wrote for the Florida Flambeau. Following his college studies, Mr. Bowden joined the United States Air Force, where he served as a military journalist during the Korean War. After completing his military service, Mr. Bowden moved back to Northwest Florida to raise his family and pursue a career in journalism, and in the fall of 1953, propitious circumstances and his considerable talent landed Mr. Bowden a position as a writer with the Pensacola News Journal.

First a sports writer and cartoonist for the paper, Mr. Bowden's journalistic talent, dedication to the Northwest Florida community, and assiduous work ethic saw him rise through the ranks, becoming editor of the News Journal's editorial page in 1965 and editor-in-chief of the entire paper one year later. It was in his position heading the paper's editorial pages that Mr. Bowden began to forge his legacy and cement his impact on the greater Pensacola area. We are blessed to have perhaps the world's most beautiful beaches located in Northwest Florida, and, in 1965, Mr. Bowden began advocating for the creation of a national park as a way to preserve this natural beauty. Thanks in large part to his efforts, Mr. Bowden's dream was realized just a few years later when legislation was signed into law on January 8, 1971 to establish the Gulf Islands National Seashore. Today, Gulf Islands National Seashore is one of the most visited components of the National Park System, and, in recognition of his work, the road linking eastern Pensacola Beach to Navarre Beach is named Earle Bowden Way.

In addition to his successful work preserving the Northwest Florida environment, Mr. Bowden was also deeply dedicated and involved with the preservation of the many important historical landmarks in Northwest Florida. He helped found several important organizations, including the Seville Square Historic District and the Historic Pensacola Preservation Board. He also served in numerous leadership capacities, including as president of West Florida Historic Preservation Inc., whose headquarters is named in his honor, president of the Pensacola Historical Society, president of the University of West Florida Foundation, chairman of the City of Pensacola Architectural Review Board, president of the Pensacola Bay Area Coalition on Literacy, and general chairman for the Galvez Bicentennial Celebration, amongst many others.

Mr. Bowden was also deeply committed to advancing the field of journalism and writing, as evidenced by his long tenure teaching journalistic writing at the University of West Florida, which awarded him an honorary doctorate in 1985. Mr. Bowden was also a widely published author of non-fiction, fiction, and illustration books. Among his published writings are the novel "Look and Tremble," his memoir "Always the Rivers Flow," a pictorial history "Pensacola: Florida's First Place City", and the non-fiction book "Gulf Islands: The Sands of All, Preserving America's Largest National Seashore." He also contributed writing, editing, and illustration to several books on Pensacola history including: "Florida in the Civil War: 1860 through Reconstruction"; "Siege! Spain and Britain: Battle of Pensacola"; "Iron Horse in the Pinelands: Building West Florida's Railroad 1881–1883"; and "Guardians on the Gulf and Pensacola: Spaniards to Space Age."

In recognition of Mr. Bowden's incalculable contributions to Northwest Florida, he has re-

ceived dozens of awards from a wide range of organizations including: the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation's Florida Preservationist of the Year; two national awards for editorial writing from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge; the Pensacola Kiwanis Club Civic Award; the BIP Awards' Professional Leader of the Year; Pensacola Junior College's Distinguished Citizen of the Year; the Law Day Liberty Bell Award; the PACE Pioneer Award; FSU Distinguished Alumnus; and three statewide awards from Florida Architects for his work in historic preservation.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his long and distinguished life, J. Earle Bowden worked tirelessly on behalf of the Northwest Florida community that he loved. Although he was a man of letters, his impact on our community cannot be fully captured in words, and his legacy will forever live on in the many historical sites and natural resources that he worked so judiciously to protect. On behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the life and lasting legacy of J. Earle Bowden. My wife Vicki and I extend our deepest prayers and condolences to his wife Mary Louise Bowden; sons, Steven Earle Bowden (wife, Pamela House) and Randall Clark Bowden; granddaughter, Jessica Johanna Bowden; brother, Franklin Lamar Bowden; nephews, Franklin Lamar Bowden, Jr. and James Marlon Bowden; and the entire Bowden family.

HONORING HARLON BLOCK, ON THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF IWO JIMA

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor South Texas native Harlon Block. Seventy years ago, he was one of six men who were part of an iconic photo that would lift the spirits of an entire nation—the raising of the American flag on Iwo Jima.

Born in Yorktown, Texas, in 1924, Corporal Block later moved with his family to Weslaco, Texas in the Rio Grande Valley.

Harlon Block attended Weslaco High School, where he led the Weslaco Panther football team to a conference championship and was named All South Texas End. Before the end of his senior year, Corporal Block and seven of his teammates enlisted in the Marine Corps. As a result, the school accelerated their studies and held a special early graduation ceremony in January 1943.

Harlon Block left for Marine Corps basic training in February 1943, and he then attended parachute training school. Corporal Block was assigned to the First Marine Parachute Regiment. After the Parachute Regiment was disbanded, he was transferred to Company E, Second Battalion, 28th Marines, Fifth Marine Division.

On February 19, 1945, Corporal Block and his company took part in the invasion of the heavily defended island of Iwo Jima. One day into the battle, Corporal Block and the 28th Marines began their assault on Mount Suribachi, a 550-foot-high extinct volcano. After a three-day onslaught, the unit reached the top and defeated the last remaining Japanese defenders. Corporal Block, along with

Sergeant Michael Strank, Corporal René Arthur Gagnon, Corporal Ira Hayes, Private First Class Franklin Runyon Soursley, and Pharmacist's Mate Second Class John "Doc" Bradley, defiantly raised the U.S. flag atop the mountain. Corporal Block guided the base of the pole into the volcanic ash while the others raised the flag upward. This is the scene that was captured in the famous photo at the Battle of Iwo Jima.

Corporal Harlon Henry Block was killed in action on March 1, 1945 and never saw the famous photo.

His remains were interred beside the Iwo Jima Memorial at the Marine Military Academy in Harlingen, Texas, which is a replica of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Virginia. On several occasions I have had the opportunity to visit the memorial located in my Congressional District, and each time I am moved by the courage and dedication of those who fought to win World War II. This memorial is a special place for the Rio Grande Valley, and serves as a reminder that our armed forces and our nation can overcome the greatest of odds. Today, we remember the bravery and valor of Corporal Block and all those who fought at the Battle of Iwo Jima.

KHOJALY TRAGEDY

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to again ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the devastating atrocities that took place in Azerbaijani town of Khojaly on February 26, 1992. Thanks to Armenian and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) forces over the course of 22 hours, 613 civilian lives were lost. Innocent children, women and elderly men were brutally murdered.

Since this tragedy took place in the early 1990s, Azerbaijan has worked to heal and become a successful country, with a booming economy. As a result, the economy of Azerbaijan is the fastest growing among the CIS states. In the turbulent geopolitical region, Azerbaijan is a reliable partner of the United States. Moreover, Azerbaijan is a close ally and trade partner with another strong American ally—Israel—in the region.

Mr. Speaker, we must stand close by our allies. That is why I urge my colleagues to recognize the human tragedy that occurred in Azerbaijan 23 years ago. Please, join me and all of our our Azerbaijani friends in commemorating the lives lost during the Khojaly massacre.

DEFENDING OUR GREAT LAKES ACT OF 2015

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to come from the State of Michigan, the Great Lakes State. In Michigan, our very identity is defined by the Great Lakes. For so many of us from Michigan, our lives revolve

around the Lakes. Whether it is tourism, agriculture, shipping, fishing, or recreational boating, the Lakes are vital to our very livelihood.

The Great Lakes face many challenges these days, but there is nothing more threatening to the health of the Lakes than the infiltration of Asian carp—an invasive species that are about 40 miles from our doorstep.

For this reason, today I introduced the Defending Our Great Lakes Act of 2015. This is a bill that will prevent the spread of Asian carp once and for all.

This bill does three things: First, it authorizes the Army Corps of Engineers to take immediate action to update the infrastructure and install necessary technologies and measures at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam site. Second, it requires the Army Corps to develop a long-term plan, in consultation with federal agencies as well as the Great Lake states and impacted business and environmental communities. Finally, this bill reaffirms the need to continue to examine the ongoing needs across the entire Great Lakes region for measures that protect our waterways from invasive species.

The Defending Our Great Lakes Act, by design, provides a broad authorization for the Army Corps, and it authorizes the use of the best technologies, including, but not limited to, electric barriers. The importance of this broad authorization is that it will allow them to use new, yet-to-be-developed technologies going forward.

It is important to note that this bill also instructs the Army Corps to consider the protection of the area's ecosystem to the greatest extent feasible so that no native populations are inadvertently harmed as we attempt to remove the threat of invasive species. Additionally, this bill also instructs the Army Corps to ensure the efficient flow of navigation so that there is no unnecessary impediment to commerce. Including these provisions further demonstrates the dynamic nature of the Great Lakes and how we must work with all interested stakeholders to accomplish the goal of preventing Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes basin.

This bill was introduced with a broad bipartisan cross section of members from across the Great Lakes basin and in partnership with Senator DEBBIE STABENOW who will introduce companion legislation in the Senate.

In the many years I have been so honored to serve in Congress, the protection of our magnificent Great Lakes has been one of my primary advocacies.

I remember well battling the scourge of invasive species like zebra mussels, the sea lamprey, Eurasian Milfoil and phragmites.

All of these invasive species have taken an ecological and economic toll on our Great Lakes, and we have spent billions over the past two decades trying to mitigate their damage.

With Asian carp, however, we cannot afford to respond to the untold damage they are certain to have on our Lakes.

They represent the most grave threat we have faced, and they must be dealt with using preventative, proactive measures.

The Asian carp threaten our \$17 billion tourism industry and our \$7 billion fishing and recreation industry.

They threaten our very way of life, and potentially billions of dollars every year to our regional economy. We simply cannot turn our backs on this threat.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support the Defending Our Great Lakes Act and help ensure the long-term health and beauty of our precious Great Lakes. The Lakes are vital to our identity and livelihood.

BARBARA JORDAN—PATRIOT OF THE GREAT STATE OF TEXAS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Texas lost quite the political patriot. A dear friend and tenacious community warrior, Barbara Jordan of Kingwood, Texas will be greatly missed. It gives me honor to recognize a lifelong volunteer, advocate and inspiration to the Kingwood community. The City of Houston and, indeed, the entire State of Texas, lost a dedicated leader and friend on February 22, 2015.

Barbara was born November 28, 1939 in Eagle Lake, Texas. For almost her entire life, she has given back to the community she holds so dear. Her friends have described her as “the best volunteer in the world; always ready to do whatever it takes to get the job done.”

As her friend Pauline Adams put it, “Barbara was a force to be reckoned with. She was funny, irreverent and loved by everyone who knew her because she always had a smile on her face and a kind word for all. However, underneath the graciousness was a true Southern ‘Steel Magnolia’. She will be sorely missed by all who knew her.”

Barbara was a political activist. She was a pioneer for the GOP in Houston and Texas back when there were not that many Republicans in Texas. She served on numerous boards and organizations throughout the years. She was past President and founding member of the Kingwood Area Republican Women's Club.

Barbara Jordan had an infectious spirit. She came to me along with Patti Johnson and Peggy Englehardt and suggested that I leave the D.A.'s office and apply for the vacancy in the criminal district court in Harris County.

With these women's help, I obtained appointment by then Governor Clements and then they helped me get elected as one of the only Republican criminal district judges in Harris County in 1982. I have Barbara to thank for the 22 years I spent on the bench. But Barbara wasn't through.

Barbara and other Republican women can be credited with getting me elected to Congress in 2004. She served as President of the Greater Houston Council of Federated Republican Women from 1996–1997, and she is responsible for designing a pin for the Greater Houston Council officers and club presidents. The tradition of presenting a pin to officers and club presidents continues to this day. She has also been a member and an officer with one of the most powerful women's political organizations in Texas, the Texas Federation of Republican Women. Most GOP elected officials credit their elections to the Texas Republican Women like Barbara.

In 1999, Barbara was named Chairman of the Texas Federation of Republican Women State Convention. Barbara was ever working for God, home and country. She had a pas-

sion to keep America strong and Texas RED. Many Republicans owe her thanks. Her drive helped get other Republicans elected in Harris County.

My thoughts are with the love of Barbara's life, Ken Jordan—her husband of 54 years. The passing of Barbara has left four sons in mourning of their mother—John, Mark, Scott, and Todd. She also leaves behind four daughter-in-laws and seven cherished grandchildren. Her memory will live on, in the many lives she touched along the way. Last summer, I visited with Barbara and Ken at their home in Kings Forest.

Barbara was always gracious and welcoming; she simply was the best hostess. She was a loyal friend to me, and although I am saddened by her loss, I feel very fortunate for the time and friendship that we shared. She will be remembered by many as a devoted community leader, a mentor, genuine friend and a great patriot.

My Grandmother used to say there was nothing more powerful than a woman—that has made up her mind. Barbara was one such unique woman.

Barbara was truly a remarkable Texan who achieved extraordinary things in her lifetime and for her community, state and political party. And for that, Texas and our people are better because of Barbara Jordan.

That's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ROLAND J. “ROCKY” GANNON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2015

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Roland “Rocky” J. Gannon, a resident of Florence, South Carolina and join with his friends throughout the Pee Dee area of South Carolina in celebration of his 90th birthday.

Mr. Gannon is a decorated veteran, having served thirty-seven years in the Air Force before retiring in 1980. His service began in 1943 while he was a high school junior when he entered an Air Force pilot training program, from which he graduated one month after D-Day. During his decades of service, he flew more than 6,000 hours in thirty-four different types of aircraft. Fourteen of those years were served overseas and included 387 combat missions in Vietnam. After the end of World War II, “Rocky” spent three years in Iwo Jima, Japan. His service in these theaters, as well as in the Korean War and Belgian Congo, earned him fifty military awards, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, and ten Air Medals.

After his retirement from the Air Force in 1980, Mr. Gannon took his expertise to the private sector as an independent aviation consultant and was subsequently named Executive Director of the Florence Regional Airport. In 2001, commemoration of his accomplishments in both civilian and combat aviation, he was named South Carolina Aviator of the Year and was inducted into the South Carolina Aviation Association Hall of Fame.

“Rocky's” passion for aviation is matched only by his dedication to the Boy Scouts of