

HONORING WALTER ROGER JOHNSON, SR. FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR NATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, on May 8, 2015, Americans celebrated the 70th anniversary of V-E Day, the day that the United States and its allies accepted the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany—and celebrated the end of World War II (WWII) in Europe. I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring and celebrating the life of Walter Roger Johnson, Sr., an American hero, for his significant accomplishments and service to the United States during WWII. Mr. Johnson not only served his country as a “Buffalo Soldier” in both the U.S. 10th and 28th Horse Cavalry Regiments, he also served as a soldier on the “Red Ball Express” in the 3825th Quartermaster Truck Company while overseas.

Walter Roger Johnson, Sr., a native Washingtonian, was fascinated by the colored soldiers he saw riding horseback trot past his home, on D.C.’s then dirt roads. His admiration of the soldiers prompted him to run away and join the Cavalry, but at age 15 he was sent home. In February 1943, Mr. Johnson enlisted in the army at Ft. Myer, Virginia. He served in the 10th Horse Cavalry Regiment and finally in the 28th Horse Cavalry at Camp Lockett, CA, the U.S.’s final Horse Cavalry Regiment. The 28th served double duty as the southern defense for the Western Defense Command. It’s there that he earned the rankings of a rifle “sharpshooter” and an “expert” with a .45 pistol. Mr. Johnson would jokingly say, “I hit hard, shoot straight, and cut deep!”

In March 1944, the 28th was shipped to North Africa, inactivated, and converted into a Combat Service Support Troop. Mr. Johnson was assigned to the 3825th Quartermaster Truck Company, which later became a part of WWII’s most massive logistics operation, the “Red Ball Express,” an operation primarily manned by colored soldiers. Mr. Johnson served as a “Red Ball Express” truck driver—in which he, along with his unit, hauled supplies, 24/7, to the First and Third Armies so that the Army could continue their advancement across France.

A proud descendant of Native Americans and African Africans, Mr. Johnson never faltered in telling his proud story of being an American soldier, American champion, and champion of liberty, equality, and dignity. Like millions of nameless, faceless colored men, Mr. Johnson was an American war hero who helped win wars for this great country, but was unable to win the fight for freedom right here at home.

Mr. Johnson was decorated with the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the WWII Victory Medal, and the Lapel Button. He was honorably discharged in November of 1945 at Camp Campbell, Kentucky.

In the summer of 2014, coinciding with the 70th anniversary of D-Day, June 6, 1944, Mr. Johnson’s story was published in the following three publications, “The Rocket,” “Dispatches,” and “Aspirations” under the title

“World War II Soldier Remembered: From Buffalo Soldier to Red Ball Express Soldier.”

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House join me in honoring Walter Roger Johnson, Sr., for his service to our Nation.

A TRIBUTE TO THE SOUTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE SPORTS SHOOTING TEAM

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Southwestern Community College Sport Shooting team for winning the Iowa Collegiate Shooting Sports Conference Championship.

The SWCC Spartans won the championship by more than 90 targets, and claimed individual titles in the male division, by Brandon Dvorsky, and the female division, by Shelby Woods. Their performance in the Conference Championship capped off a great season that included being the Iowa Collegiate Shooting Sports Conference Champions and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources State Champions. They finished the season undefeated in all conference competitions, and placed sixth at the National competition.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by these students and coaches demonstrates that hard work, dedication, and perseverance deliver results. I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress. I know all of my colleagues in the House join me in congratulating the SWCC Sports Shooting team on their accomplishments this year. I wish nothing but continued success to the dedicated members of this team and Southwestern Community College moving forward.

THANKING ANDREW STRAUGHAN FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank Andrew Straughan from Maryland’s Fifth District who will be retiring in June after more than thirty-three years of outstanding service to this House in a number of administrative and support roles. I am proud to represent him in Congress.

Andrew began his career with the House in 1982 as a laborer, delivering furniture to Members’ offices and Committee rooms for the Office of the Clerk. By the following year, he was appointed as an inventory control clerk, conducting inventory of office furnishings, assisting in storeroom management, and helping to create a report for the General Services Administration.

When the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer was created, Mr. Straughan was named Assistant Supervisor of the Asset Management Division, requiring him to act as a liaison between the Department of Office Furnishings and the House Information Systems. His abilities caught the attention of manage-

ment, and in 1994 he was named Manager of Logistics and Central Receiving and Warehousing, where he oversaw the Office Supply Warehouse.

From 2008 to 2010, Andrew was detailed as the manager of the Logistics Department, where he developed policies and oversaw a staff of more than forty employees. He then returned to his role as Manager of Central Receiving and Warehousing, the position he currently holds.

Among his proudest accomplishments are being a member of the Source Selection Team for FAIMS, a governmental computer program, and choosing the vendors for purchasing. He was named the Contracting Office Representative for both the Warehousing Contract and the Temporary Labor Contract for temporary staff hired during Congressional transitions.

Andrew’s father, Walter Straughan, also spent his career with the House as an electrician, and his brother, Danny Straughan, currently works for the Senate’s Electrical Department.

I congratulate Andrew, and I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his distinguished service to the House and to our country. I wish him and his family all the best as Andrew begins a new chapter in his life.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF JAMES HENRY JACKSON

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Megan Spindel Jackson and her husband, Kyle Jackson, on the birth of their son, James Henry Jackson.

Henry was born at 11:38 a.m. on Saturday, May 16, 2015. Weighing in at 7lbs, 15oz, Henry has his parents beaming with pride.

With Megan, my Legislative Director/Deputy Chief of Staff as his mother, and Kyle, Congressman JEB HENSARLING’s (TX-05) Legislative Director/Deputy Chief of Staff as his father, I trust Henry will be climbing the Capitol Hill ladder in no time at all.

Megan has been an integral part of my office’s legislative operation since I first came to Washington, and I am excited to witness her grow into her most important role yet—a Mom. I have no doubt that Megan and Kyle will be phenomenal parents, who are devoted to Henry’s well-being and bright future.

Congratulations and best wishes to the Spindel and Jackson families.

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR ULYSSES PONDER

HON. HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, in the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, there are many individuals

who are called to contribute to the needs of our community through leadership and service; and

Whereas, Pastor Ulysses Ponder has given of himself to lead Poplar Springs Baptist Church these past twenty-seven (27) years; and

Whereas, Pastor Ponder under the guidance of God has pioneered and sustained Poplar Springs Baptist Church as a known crowned jewel in our district for years, enriching the lives of thousands; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man of God has shared his time and talents for the betterment of our community over the past twenty-seven (27) years by preaching the gospel, teaching the gospel and living the gospel; and

Whereas, Pastor Ponder serves as a man of the cloth in the church, community and family; he is always teaching the Word and he puts the Word into action daily; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Pastor Ulysses Ponder for his leadership and service for our District as he celebrates his 27th Pastoral anniversary; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby proclaim May 3, 2015 as Pastor Ulysses Ponder Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 3rd day of May, 2015.

CONGRATULATING THE GRAND HAVEN VFW POST ON 10 SUCCESSFUL YEARS OF RIB FEST

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Grand Haven VFW Post 2326 for their efforts to assist veterans and their families through their annual "Rib Fest" fundraiser event.

Celebrating its 10th year, the Rib Fest event brings together West Michigan restaurants to compete in an event that raises funds for veterans and their families as well as maintaining the group's individual VFW post.

The event's most significant community contribution is the Ward-Goff Scholarship Fund established by VFW members in honor of Elwin Ward and Richard Goff. The Ward-Goff Scholarship is awarded to a child, grandchild or great-grandchild of a good-standing member of the Grand Haven VFW post. Each year the award is given in remembrance of these two American patriots who gave their lives for their country during the Vietnam War.

Through their events like the annual Rib Fest, or many other areas of community involvement, the Grand Haven VFW Post 2326 continues to prove to future generations the values that make America great. I wish the 2015 Rib Fest all of the best, and look forward to sharing a meal with our veterans.

RECOGNIZING NOAH MASIH, WINNER OF NATIONAL NUMBER KNOCKOUT

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Noah Masih, a 6th grader from Clearwater, Minnesota. Noah is a national champion, having recently won the National Number Knockout.

The National Number Knockout is a math competition for students ages 9–14, and competitors play to improve their calculating speed. The competition involves a board of 36 numbers and use of dice to create an additional variable. Noah beat out 15 other finalists to claim the title.

I am always awestruck by those who find their passion in numbers. Noah's feat is nothing short of impressive, and is a testament to a fantastic homeschooling program.

I know I speak for the 6th District when I say we are so proud of Noah and his accomplishments, and I look forward with eager anticipation to seeing what the future holds for this bright young scholar.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this body join me in congratulating Noah Masih on his success in mathematics.

A TRIBUTE TO ELLEN LEMKE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ellen Lemke of Bedford, Iowa on the celebration of her 100th birthday today, on May 18, 2015.

Ellen is a pillar of her community and has a legacy of service to others that we should all aspire to. She is still an active member in her community who volunteers her time at the local nursing home where, as she says, she likes to "read to the old folks." She also stays involved in her church and other community organizations like the Community Singers, a group that travels to nine surrounding communities to perform to nursing homes. She was awarded the 2013 Iowan of the Day award, an honor that is bestowed to Iowans who have truly made a difference in their communities. She continues to write a weekly news column for the local paper, the Bedford Times Press.

She has exhibited the integrity, Iowa pride, hard work and dedication that make all of us proud. She has left an incredible legacy to her family that includes her children Rita and Henry, and her community as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Ellen in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 100th birthday. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Ms. Lemke on reaching this incredible milestone, and wishing her continued health and happiness in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I will be absent from the House May 18th through May 21st to attend my daughter's wedding.

TRIBUTE TO REV. NIOLENE A. DURHAM

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, twenty years ago a virtuous woman of God accepted her calling to preach and teach the gospel of Jesus Christ at Amanda Flipper African Methodist Episcopal Church in Decatur, Georgia; and

Whereas, the Reverend Niolene A. Durham under the guidance of God has pioneered and sustained Amanda Flipper African Methodist Episcopal Church as an instrument in our community that uplifts the spiritual, physical and mental welfare of our citizens; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman of God has shared her time and talents for the betterment of our community and our nation through her inspiration, words of encouragement, tireless works, and outreach ministries, that have been and continue to be a beacon of light to those in need; and

Whereas, Pastor Durham is a spiritual warrior, a woman of compassion, a fearless leader and a servant to all, but most of all she is a visionary who impacted and transformed our society as a whole by sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with not only her Church, but with also our District and the world; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Pastor Niolene A. Durham for her outstanding leadership and service to our District; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby proclaim April 25, 2015 as Reverend Niolene A. Durham Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 25th day of April, 2015.

HONORING JOSHUE LEYVA FOR HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND UNWAVERING DEDICATION TO SERVING HIS COMMUNITY AND THE COACHELLA VALLEY

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Mr. Joshue Leyva, a mature young pre-medical student. Joshue's talent, integrity, dedication and passion for community service are indications that he unquestionably will fulfill his goal of becoming a doctor and serve the underserved communities of the Coachella Valley.

Joshue, a second generation immigrant, is a shining example of how migrant families contribute to and make our great nation stronger.