

Seiser from Waukee High School for winning the Class 2A Co-ed Golf Doubles title along with her partner, Parker Howe. I would like to also recognize Paige Seiser for taking home the Class 5A Girls Golf individual title.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by these students demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent them and their families in the United States Congress. I know all of my colleagues in the House join me in congratulating Paige and Parker on competing in this rigorous competition and wishing continued success in their education and high school golf career.

HONORING THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks today in honor of the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, which will be celebrating its 125th anniversary on July 7.

Sadly, too often it seems as if lessons from history are overlooked or forgotten. But in Virginia, we are proud of our history, of our love of freedom, and of our dedication to independence. I commend the important efforts of the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution to keep in our hearts and minds American patriotism and the memory of our Revolutionary War heritage.

As a student of history myself, I could spend hours discussing not only the various events preceding and succeeding our nation's fight for independence, but also the crucial role by Virginians. Countless patriots, battles, and events from this pivotal period in our nation's history ought to be commemorated and remembered, battles including but not limited to the Battle of Point Pleasant, which is credited as being the first battle of the American Revolution by the Senate of the United States, to the Battle of Great Bridge, the Burning of Norfolk, etc.

May we forever remain vigilant and committed to preserving and protecting the self-evident truths and freedoms fought for and so carefully outlined in our nation's founding documents by our Founding Fathers.

I extend to all those involved with the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution my best wishes on the occasion of its 125th anniversary, and look forward to this organization's continued success.

BIOGRAPHY OF MARY BROOM-THOMAS

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I submit the biography of Mary Broom-Thomas, a wife, mother and woman of faith who lived to the ripe age of 101 years and who will be missed by many who loved her.

Mrs. Mary Broom-Thomas was born on January 22, 1914 in Lexington, Mississippi to Alberta Garnett-Broom and Cleveland Broom. She graduated from Saints Industrial High School in Lexington, Mississippi and taught there for 2 years.

Mary married Leroy Thomas, Sr. in 1937 and the couple moved to Jackson, Mississippi, where they built a home. They had four children, McKinley, Abraham, Earnestine, and Leroy, Jr.

After Leroy finished military duty in the South Pacific, Mary and Leroy moved the family to Compton, California in 1955. Mary practiced her vocation as a seamstress, making her own patterns and designing clothes, including garments for her children and some specialty sales for friends and family. After the children graduated from Centennial and Locke High Schools and were off to college and building careers, Mary took a job at Newberry's Department Store in downtown Los Angeles. She continued sewing clothing, but later added making handbags and light upholstery to her sewing skills portfolio.

Mrs. Thomas was a member of First A.M.E. Church where Reverend Dr. Cecil Murray was Pastor. They continued to visit at family gatherings after his retirement and by then she became less mobile.

Up until seven years ago, Mrs. Thomas always had an organic garden. She grew an array of vegetables and fruits. She and her family were healthier for it . . . she lived a great 101 years.

She raised her children to embrace the Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." She lived the example. She taught the core values of honesty, respect, humility, courage and the necessity of sometimes standing alone as long as you stand for the right thing.

She championed education. Some of her most favorite people: The Honorable Maxine Waters, Congresswoman; the Honorable Barack Obama—she was glad to see the first African-American become President of the United States; the late former Mayor Tom Bradley; Malcom X; Dr. Martin Luther King; Mrs. Rosa Parks; Reverend Dr. Cecil L. Chip Murray; Kobe Bryant; and Shaquille O'Neil as she was an avid Laker fan. She attended a personal reception with the team along with her grandson, Demetrius Wilson.

She has been honored with a published song entitled "Mary," composed, scored and written by her grandson, Ende (Sky) Wilson; and she has been given a tribute by her grandson, Demetrius (Red) Wilson, via a personalized brick on the residential mall at Xavier University, his alma mater, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

One would often hear her quoting from an old spiritual, "needless pain we bear . . . all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer."

Just a little about a Queen, who never had to declare herself a queen . . . she just was.

CONGRATULATING PENNY BUSINGA

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Penny Businga of Gering, Nebraska, on her retirement this month and to honor her 29 years of dedicated service at Educational Service Unit #13 in Scottsbluff.

Before becoming a trailblazer for professional development, Ms. Businga taught in

western Nebraska public schools. She then decided to take her classroom expertise to the next level to assist other educators across the Nebraska Panhandle and beyond.

Ms. Businga devoted her career to ensuring Nebraska teachers have the innovative training and support they need to instill a love of learning in their students. When I worked for her, I personally witnessed Ms. Businga's hard work and dedication to ensuring educational opportunity for young people.

On behalf of the people of Nebraska's Third District, I thank Ms. Businga for her impact on Nebraska education and congratulate her on the start of this new chapter in her life.

RECOGNIZING THE DAMAGING IMPACT OF SHELBY COUNTY V. HOLDER

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the 2nd anniversary of the Shelby County v. Holder Supreme Court ruling. By declaring Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act unconstitutional, the Supreme Court dismantled a key provision to this pivotal voting rights protection. The importance of the Voting Rights Act to our American democracy cannot be overstated. This damaging precedent, set by the nation's highest Court has weakened a piece of legislation that was fundamental to the advancement of the American democracy.

On June 25, 2013, when the Supreme Court decided that states with a history of discrimination against minority voters no longer needed clearance from the federal government to set new voting restrictions, it established a pathway for modern day discriminatory practices. Under this ruling, states across the Deep South, where vestiges of discrimination are still present, were able to enact stricter voting requirements for the first time since 1965.

Many of these states, including my home state of Texas, are governed by Republican-led state legislatures that insist on the necessity of voter ID laws to protect the integrity of elections. However, Mr. Speaker, it is quite clear that these laws, which disproportionately affect African-Americans, Hispanics and poor people, are a political ploy to suppress voter turnout. This runs counter to the Constitutional right to vote, which is the cornerstone of our democracy.

Recently, as a result of the Shelby County v. Holder ruling, Texas implemented restrictive voter ID laws that prohibit voting autonomy for many underserved minorities across the state. During the 2014 election, instead of being granted the opportunity to cast their vote of choice, many voters were turned away on the basis of technicalities.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot fathom how these actions would be permissible among any group of lawmakers. Today, I stand before you to call attention to this fact. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was implemented to ensure that all Americans have the ability to exercise their right to vote. This body should act in a bi-partisan fashion to ensure that this right is fully restored.

HONORING BRIANNA HALLER OF
THE FATIMA COMETS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Brianna Haller of the Fatima Comets for her first place win in 3200 Meter Run at the 2015 Class 3 Track and Field State Championship.

Brianna and her coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Brianna Haller of the Fatima Comets for a job well done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I was detained with business in my district and missed the following votes. Had I been present, I would have voted:

“No” on roll call no. 379, on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 33, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2822) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016 and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2042) Ratepayer Protection Act; and,

“No” on roll call no. 380, On Agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 333, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2822) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016 and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2042) Ratepayer Protection Act.

THANKING FATHER ALAN HUNTER

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Father Alan Hunter for his years of service in the St. Mary’s parish in my hometown of Taylorville, Illinois.

Having served 13 years in Taylorville and 22 years in Christian County, Father Hunter has captured the true essence of what it means to be a disciple of Christ.

Alan has not only been a great leader for all of the parishioners at St. Mary’s, but he’s also been a close personal friend of mine as well.

He married my wife, Shannon, and I twenty years ago and has helped educate all three of my children through grade school at St. Mary’s.

I’ve been fortunate enough to work with Father Hunter as a volunteer athletic director and serve on his finance advisory committee.

He will be greatly missed at St. Mary’s, but I know our loss is St. Jerome’s gain and I wish

him the best in his new parish. I also welcome Father David Lantz as he makes Taylorville his new home.

Father Hunter, thank you for the many years of spiritual guidance and leadership you’ve provided, not just my family and the parishioners at St. Mary’s, but to the entire Taylorville community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE RUSSELL

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 378 I was absent due to travel for personal reasons and in connection with my official duties. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on June 24, 2015 I mistakenly voted “yes” on rollcall 384, the Ratepayer Protection Act of 2015. I strongly oppose the bill and intended to vote “no”.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF AN OUTSTANDING NEW HAMPSHIRE GRADUATE

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Meaghan Six, an outstanding recent graduate of Manchester Memorial High School, located in New Hampshire’s First Congressional District and a future graduate of Daniel Webster College in Nashua, New Hampshire.

As a dedicated student and an active individual, Meaghan Six quickly distinguished herself as an influential leader amongst her peers. Meaghan was the captain of her high school volleyball team, as well as being named as an alternate to the Women’s Jr. National A1 Working team, placing her in the top 100 volleyball players nationwide for her age group. She was also a competitor on the spring track and field team and nominated for the female in spring sports award. She was awarded the single Crusader award for her graduating class. Meaghan’s talents do not only set her apart athletically, but also in the classroom. Along with completing 28 consecutive quarters on both the Honor Roll and High Honors, she was inducted into the National Honor Society, which recognizes students for their exemplary character, commitment to scholarship, and, their dedication to service outreach in their community.

This coming fall Meaghan will continue her impressive career as a notable student-athlete at Daniel Webster College on their women’s

volleyball team; she serves as an inspiration to all young people in New Hampshire and throughout the nation. She is proof that hard work and dedication can certainly pay off. I am proud to recognize her accomplishments and look forward to witnessing her future successes.

Congratulations to Meaghan Six for all of her achievements.

TRIBUTE TO MAUREEN VIOLA PERCIVAL WILLIAMS

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of the Fifth Congressional District of Florida and myself, I rise to offer a tribute to the life and accomplishments of a great American, Maureen Viola Percival Williams, who has, and continues to act as a mentor, devout Christian and loving mother. On July 1, 2015, Maureen will celebrate her 71st birthday. We exalt Mrs. Maureen Viola Percival Williams first for the determination and perseverance that she has exhibited throughout her life. Maureen has been no stranger to hard work. At an early age the importance of hard work and dedication were introduced to Maureen on her father’s agricultural farms in the mountains of Molyneux in St. Kitts West Indies. Arriving at the farm at 5:00 a.m., Maureen would weed the land and feed the livestock before school each day. These displays of commitment were not reserved solely for the weekdays. Mrs. Maureen Viola Percival Williams would spend Saturdays by her mother’s side assisting in the selling of produce at the local market. Few would be able to handle the manual labor of Maureen’s day-to-day activities, let alone balancing academics alongside of it. Mrs. Percival Williams’ rigorous work schedule did not deter her from successfully completing Primary School and obtaining her certificate, which is equivalent to a high school diploma. Maureen Viola Percival was then enrolled in typing classes at the Catholic Church of Molyneux, where she completed a one year program. After marrying Ralph J. A. Williams in 1964, the family moved to the U.S. Virgin Islands where her life as a public servant and model citizen continued. She became the first member of her family to have children born as citizens of the United States after giving birth to her seven children: (Vallyn J. A. Williams, Artlyn K. J. Williams, Ralph J. A. Williams, Jr., M. Louisa Williams, Barbara N. Williams, Maura F. Williams and Jayar D. Williams). In spite of challenges faced balancing motherhood and her career, Maureen continued to dedicate her life to the church and bettering the lives of others.

Volunteering as a member of the AFM—Cottage Meeting Group, Maureen also spent time as a phone intercessor for the sick and disabled. This sort of selflessness is primarily the reason for which I deem this tribute necessary. Unfortunately, life often proves to not be as fair and just as Mrs. Maureen Percival Williams.

In 1987 her husband and two daughters were involved in an automobile accident which rendered them incapacitated. Yet, amidst Maureen Williams’ personal struggles, she