

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES JOE HELMS

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2016

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of my good friend Charles Joe Helms of Butlerville, Indiana.

Charlie was born on May 8, 1948 in Richmond, Indiana, to Myron and Esther Dennis Helms. Charlie lived a long, full life dedicated to his family and his community. Charlie is survived by his loving wife, Vickie; three sons, Jon, Lennie, and Arnie; daughter, Nichelle Burkhardt; stepdaughters, Traci Baldwin, Amy McCanlis, and Bekah Hunsucker; one sister, Lynda Schmidt; and seven grandchildren.

Raised in Indiana, Charlie graduated from Brookville High School before serving his country in the U.S. Navy. Following his service, he worked for Ford Motor Company in Connersville and then General Motors Delphi in Dayton, Ohio for several years. Charlie officially retired in 2010, after working for the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center.

As the Good Book says in Acts 20:35, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Charlie truly lived this scripture throughout his life. Everyone who knew him, knew of his steadfast faith and compassion for serving the Hoosier community. Charlie was a member of the Nebraska Church of God, Masonic Lodge Number 219 in Butlerville and American Legion Post Number 77 in Brookville. In his free time, he enjoyed exploring the outdoors, boating and spending time with his family.

I am lucky to have called Charlie Helms a close friend. I know first-hand his faith, his extraordinary friendship and his consistent encouragement. I will never forget his support and belief in me.

Charlie will be missed dearly by his family and his community, but his memory will live on in those who were blessed to know him.

Today, it is my privilege to honor the life of Charlie Helms. My thoughts and prayers go out to Charlie's family, and may God comfort those he left behind with His peace and strength.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SACRAMENTO JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE 2016 HONOREES

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2016

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Sacramento Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League's 2016 honorees. As the members of the Sacramento Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) join together for their annual community recognition and installation banquet, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing these outstanding leaders in our community.

As one of the oldest and largest Japanese American Citizens League chapters in our nation, the Sacramento chapter remains a leader in the fight for civil rights of all Americans, while supporting programs that enhance our culture and community. Each year, the Sac-

ramento JACL honors inspiring individuals and companies that are committed to public service and upholding the values of the JACL. This year, I join the members of the Sacramento JACL in honoring the following individuals: Dr. Donna Yee and Priscilla Ouachita, as well as members from the Dharma School Courtyard Kitchen of the Sacramento Buddhist Church—Sam and Gladys Adachi, Billy and Grace Hatano, Reiko Kurahara, Mike and Rachel Nagai, Sachiko Sawada and Akaiye Shimada.

Dr. Donna Yee, Chief Executive Officer of Asian Community Center Senior Services, has worked tirelessly for over forty years to ensure that seniors and their families have much needed access to resources and programs vital to their well-being. The ACC provides assisted and independent living as well as supporting programs including transportation, home respite services, and caregiver support.

Priscilla Ouchida, a longtime community advocate, has much experience and numerous accomplishments in the quest for civil rights and promoting the cultural heritage of Japanese-Americans. Serving as the Executive Director of the JACL, the Chief of Staff and Legislative Director for Senator Joe Simitian, and the Chief of Staff and Legislative Director for Senator Patrick Johnston, Ms. Ouchida is a valued leader in our community.

Sam and Gladys Adachi, Billy and Grace Hatano, Reiko Kurahara, Mike and Rachel Nagai, Sachiko Sawada and Akaiye Shimada from the Dharma School Courtyard Kitchen of the Sacramento Buddhist Church have been preparing meals for over 35 years. They manage to do all this from donations from local businesses and church membership.

Mr. Speaker, as these individuals are being recognized by the Japanese American Citizens League, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking them for their outstanding service to our Sacramento community.

HONORING MS. DEBORAH WILLIAMS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2016

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and invaluable career of Ms. Deborah Hudson-Williams, who passed away on November 18, 2016.

Deborah was born on September 15, 1952 in Oakland California, to Girver and Gertrude Hudson, and grew up in a large working-class family which her father supported through his career as an electrician at General Electric. Her father was also active with the United Auto Workers (UAW), and his work would inspire her own career, when she followed him into working for the UAW.

Ms. Williams was incredibly passionate about the rights of workers, and she was very active in the UAW, including many years when she worked at the New United Motor Manufacturing, Inc., (NUMMI) plant in Fremont, California. She also served as the chairperson for the UAW's Political Action Committee in the Bay Area, which enabled her to support candidates and policies that worked to improve the quality of life for middle-class families like her own.

In addition to working to support the men and women of her union, Ms. Williams was politically active in many areas, including working with the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs (NANBPWC), the A. Philip Randolph Organization, the NAACP, and the Oakland East Bay Democratic Club.

She is survived by many siblings, including four brothers: Anthony Hudson (Linda) Las Vegas, NV, Girver Hudson Jr. (Linda) California, Michael Hudson (Delores) Oakland, Mark Hudson, Oakland; and seven sisters, Brenda Brooks, Oakland, Francine Wesley (Noel) San Pablo, Cheryl Moore, Oakland, Patricia Henry (Clarence) Oakland, Mada Hudson, Oakland, Beverly Hudson, Pittsburgh, Karen Cox (Mobil), Oakland.

On a personal note, Debbie was a loyal supporter whose wise counsel I always appreciated and who always came through for me right on time, every time. Most importantly, she was a dear friend who I will deeply miss.

On behalf of California's 13th Congressional District, I would like to offer my sincerest condolences to her family, friends, and the community she cared so much about. Ms. Williams' legacy as a strong advocate for working men and women will be remembered and honored throughout the Bay Area.

CELEBRATING THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN'S 25 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2016

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Republic of Kazakhstan, which on December 16, 2016 will celebrate its independence day. For twenty five years, Kazakhstan and its people have stood out as a steadfast and true friend to the United States on an array of security and economic issues and have made tremendous strides in democratization and economic development.

Since its independence, Kazakhstan has stood out as a reliable strategic partner in Central Asia to the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Kazakhstan contributes to the reconstruction of Afghanistan, finances the education of thousands of Afghan immigrants and refugees, and has provided supply line access and support to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Coalition. For the past thirteen years, Kazakh, American, and NATO security forces have conducted joint military training programs in the Central Asian steppes. According to the National Bank of Kazakhstan, American companies invested \$24 billion in the Kazakh economy from 2005 to 2016.

However, the cornerstone of strong U.S.-Kazakhstan relations is nuclear nonproliferation. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Kazakhstan inherited a nuclear weapons stockpile of 1,400 nuclear warheads, the fourth largest stockpile of nuclear weapons in the world. President Nursultan Nazarbayev expressed his early commitment to nuclear disarmament by decommissioning all 1,400 nuclear weapons.

The government in Astana has remained committed to the global cause of nonproliferation ever since. Recently the country established the first-ever Low Enriched Uranium

Fuel Bank backed by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in order to ensure the stability of civil nuclear energy use worldwide. As a nonpermanent member of the UN Security Council, President Nazarbayev has relentlessly pursued the cause of nuclear disarmament.

Kazakhstan is also on the road to becoming a regional hub for sustainable economic activity in Central Asia. Its New Silk Road Initiative, the "Bright Path" stimulus plan, and the 2050 Strategy each mark President Nazarbayev's commitment to developing transportation and telecommunications infrastructure and his commitment to diversifying Kazakhstan's overall economy. Relatedly, Kazakhstan will host an International Exposition in 2017 that aims to create a global discourse among states, NGOs, and corporations about ensuring sustainable access to energy while reducing carbon emissions. These promising strides in economic development will not only help the Kazakh people, but will benefit American companies doing business in Kazakhstan.

Mr. Speaker, I once again want to congratulate President Nazarbayev and the Kazakh people on the joyous occasion of their twenty fifth anniversary of independence, and I look forward to a continued, strong and resilient friendship between our two countries.

2016 NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2016

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, each November we celebrate the contributions of First Americans with National Native American Heritage Month. The people of the 567 diverse, federally recognized tribal nations—including the 11 Ojibwe and Dakota nations in Minnesota—play a complex and vital role in our nation's history, and make our communities and our country stronger today.

Despite centuries of violent discrimination and abusive policies, our country's Native American cultures and nations have endured. Tribal governments and Native communities have made monumental progress. Our federal trust relationship with tribal nations has grown stronger in the current era of self-governance among Native American tribes—a proud accomplishment that will continue to require the federal government's full and respectful engagement.

As a co-chair of the Congressional Native American Caucus and the Ranking Member of the Interior-Environment Appropriations Subcommittee, I have had the honor to meet with hundreds of tribal leaders to discuss the needs of Indian Country. Working together, we have succeeded in making substantial progress on education, health, and criminal justice issues through measures like the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, increased funding for the Bureau of Indian Education, and special tribal jurisdiction in domestic violence cases.

Despite these concrete steps, we have much more work to do to address disparities, invest in Indian Country, and create more opportunities for all Native Americans—especially Native youth. As we honor the achieve-

ments and resilience of our First Americans, I pledge to continue working to ensure that our Native American brothers and sisters have every opportunity to succeed.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN SHIREY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2016

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Shirey as he retires after over 44 years of public service. As his loved ones, friends, and colleagues celebrate his decorated career, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating his work as Sacramento's City Manager.

John earned his Bachelor of Science degree in industrial engineering at Purdue University and then completed his Master's degree in public administration at the University of Southern California. He served diligently as the Assistant City Manager of City of Long Beach, starting a long career of public service in California. For a few years he served as City Manager of Cincinnati, Ohio. After returning to California, John began his time as Executive Director of the California Redevelopment Association, an organization responsible for over 350 redevelopment agencies. Consistent with his dedication to the public good, John dedicated nine years to urban redevelopment, and thereafter became the City Manager of Sacramento in September of 2011. During his tenure as City Manager, Mr. Shirey has balanced not only an annual budget that nears \$900 million, but also a work force of around 4,100 employees. His expertise and knowledge have served the city well, and he will be missed.

Mr. Shirey played a pivotal role in keeping our Sacramento Kings where they belong, which is in California's capital city. His motivation and drive were integral to the construction of the Golden 1 Center, which is a jewel in Sacramento's downtown that will drive economic development and commerce for decades to come. John has also made a continual effort to support the homeless in Sacramento. His hard work and integrity have helped make Sacramento a better place.

Mr. Speaker, as John and his family, friends, and colleagues gather to celebrate his retirement, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him the best in retirement and thanking him for his contributions to the Sacramento region.

IN HONOR OF FRANK JOHNSON

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to a respected community leader and outstanding citizen, Frank Johnson. Sadly, Mr. Johnson passed away on Sunday, November 20, 2016. Funeral services were held on Saturday, November 26, 2016.

Frank Johnson served our nation honorably among the ranks of the first black Marines,

known as the Montford Point Marines because they received basic training at the segregated Montford Point Base adjacent to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Mr. Johnson later worked at Robins Air Force Base until he retired.

Although Mr. Johnson fought to protect our cherished freedoms and liberties, he did not benefit from all those freedoms and liberties for he did not have the right to vote due to the color of his skin. This inspired Mr. Johnson to join the march over the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama on March 7, 1965. When the group of protesters reached the other side of the bridge, they were brutally attacked by police, giving the historic day the name "Bloody Sunday."

Frank Johnson's life was about helping people. He was known as the "mayor" of Macon's Unionville neighborhood for his efforts to revitalize the area and improve the quality of life for its residents. He was involved in the Unionville Improvement Association and helped with community clean-ups. Mr. Johnson wanted a recreation center for Unionville's young people to enjoy. He got that and more—a recreation center was opened on Mercer University Drive on the site where he grew up playing and it was named after him. The Frank Johnson Community Center is currently undergoing renovations and will reopen soon.

Mr. Johnson devoted decades of service to the people of Macon through his meaningful contribution of energy, love, and genuine passion. He was an honorable human being who loved deeply and, in return, was deeply loved. Frank Johnson is survived by his wife of 62 years, Dorothy, and his daughter, Cheryl.

Maya Angelou once said, "A great soul serves everyone all the time. A great soul never dies." Frank Johnson is one such great soul, who served humanity in a special way. Each day he graced the people around him with an enthusiastic sincerity of presence. His impression on this earth extends beyond himself to the very wellbeing of the Macon community, and for it he will be remembered by the community for time to come.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, along with the more than 730,000 people of the Second Congressional District salute Frank Johnson for his dedicated service and exceptional impact on Macon, Georgia. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in extending our deepest sympathies to Mr. Johnson's 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.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SACRAMENTO BRANCH OF THE NAACP'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 29, 2016

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Sacramento branch of the NAACP as they celebrate their 100th anniversary. The NAACP's time-honored chapter in Sacramento has been a leader in the difficult