

## TRIBUTE TO RYANNE MULLEN

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 11, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ryanne Mullen of Villisca, Iowa, for being awarded first place for her outstanding essay honoring our military veterans by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Iowa. Ryanne is a student at Enarson Elementary in Villisca, Iowa.

The theme for this essay contest was "What Does A Veteran Mean To Me?", and was open to all fifth graders in public, private, and home schools throughout Iowa.

Ryanne's essay reads:

I deeply thought about what a veteran means to me. I have chosen to share emotional descriptions of what a veteran means to me. The initial meaning of a veteran to me is how fear is considered, understood, and accepted but they still make the decision to face this fear for the freedom of their families and all other families they are standing strong for.

The second meaning of a veteran to me is courage. The attitude of never giving up, never backing down, and always remaining faithful. These are characteristics of semper fidelis.

The third meaning I want to express is brotherhood, which is described as equally caring for the life of your fellow soldier. The fact that no one is left behind especially the veterans that are KIA, MIA, or POW. I will carry memories of them with me forever.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Ryanne for earning this award. It is because of Iowans like her that I'm proud to represent our great state. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Ryanne for writing this outstanding essay honoring our veterans. I wish her nothing but continued success in all she does.

## ST. EPHREM CHURCH PARISH 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 11, 2016*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, St. Ephrem Church Parish, founded in June 1966, is celebrating 50 years of faithful service to the Bensalem, Bucks County parish—a Golden Jubilee. The heart of the parish is the Catholic faith; its mission, meeting the spiritual needs of all parishioners. Dedicated, devout pastors and priests have overseen the mission throughout its history and continue on this path, today. For a half-century, the small parish has grown to include 3,300 registered families and more than 11,000 members. St. Ephrem's also provides an excellent education in pre-K through 8th grade to approximately 450 children, including another 200 in Sunday School. St. Ephrem's is known to have a strong community outreach program that touches many families in the parish through the Boy and Girl Scouts, Catholic Daughters of America, Bereavement Support, Family Counseling and active Teen and Youth sports programs. For your 50 years of spiritual guid-

ance, we extend our heartiest congratulations on this Golden Jubilee and sincere wishes for continued growth and service in the coming years.

## HONORING DANIEL BEN-ZAKEN AND RACHEL BEAN

**HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 11, 2016*

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor of Daniel Ben-Zaken and Rachel Bean, who were awarded in this year's C-SPAN student documentary contest. Daniel and Rachel are students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

Their powerful documentary, "Target," explores the issues and arguments surrounding gun safety and school shootings. The theme of this year's contest was "Road to the White House: What's the Issue You Most Want Candidates to Discuss during the 2016 Presidential Campaign?" Nearly three thousand video submissions from almost six thousand students across the nation were submitted to this contest, and I am thrilled that Daniel and Rachel's documentary was recognized as exceptional.

I am honored that these young filmmakers chose to interview me for their documentary. In my remarks, I expressed my deep concern regarding gun violence in America, especially in schools. Our students must be able to study and learn in a safe environment absent the threat of gun violence. With an average of nearly one school shooting every week, this documentary covers a timely and vital issue facing our nation.

Again, congratulations to Daniel and Rachel. I wish them the best of luck with their future endeavors and academic pursuits. It is with great pleasure that I honor them, and I hope they will continue to inspire young South Floridians to become involved in issues they care about.

## RECOGNIZING CASILDA LUNA

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 11, 2016*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Casilda Luna, who celebrated her 90th birthday on Wednesday, April 6, 2016.

A native of Sanchez, Dominican Republic, Casilda Luna is often referred to as a pioneer in the Hispanic community. Casilda Luna moved to Washington, D.C. in 1961, and was one of the first Hispanic activists in Adams Morgan. Casilda organized weekly social gatherings that evolved into community discussions, which addressed social problems in the community. She then became involved with the Latin American Festival organizing committee and the Latino Affairs Office of the District of Columbia.

Casilda was the co-founder of the Hispanic Festival and the Mayor's Office of Latino Affairs, where she helped to promote the inclu-

sion of Hispanics in the Metropolitan Police Department. She also founded Mujeres Unidas Latinas en Accion (MULA), which helped Hispanic women who were new to the District of Columbia by bringing them together through community activities.

I ask the House to join me in recognizing her 90th birthday and her more than 50 years of activism in the national capital region. Casilda Luna is a special woman whose service to our community is greatly appreciated.

## IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT OF BILL HANEY

**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 11, 2016*

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to acknowledge one of my constituents who has demonstrated day-in day-out what living the American dream really means.

Bill Haney graduated from the College of New Jersey with a Bachelor of Science in Education. While teaching elementary school in Talbot County, Maryland, Bill worked to earn his Master's Degree in Supervision and Human Relations from George Washington University. In 1983, Mr. Haney accepted the position of Chief Executive Officer of Every Citizen Has Opportunities, Inc. (ECHO), a Leesburg, Virginia based non-profit which provides employment, training, and community integration to individuals with disabilities. Mr. Haney has decided it is time to retire from his life's work, thus ending a bright chapter in ECHO's history.

As Mr. Haney's extraordinary career comes to a close, I would like to take a moment to highlight the work he has done over the years. When Mr. Haney took over as CEO at ECHO, the organization was supporting about 75 individuals with disabilities, with an annual budget of under three hundred thousand dollars, and only two work sites. Under Mr. Haney's leadership, ECHO's budget has grown to nearly five million dollars, and has expanded services to nearly 170 individuals with disabilities. ECHO has approximately 15 work locations, ranging from Loudoun County Public Schools to Inova Hospitals.

In addition to his work at ECHO, Mr. Haney has extended his skills to the community through his work on the Board of Directors for the Loudoun County Red Cross, as Cubmaster for the Pack 11 Boy Scouts in Boyce, Virginia, and as a Sunday school teacher at St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church in Front Royal, Virginia.

Mr. Haney leaves ECHO after a storied 33 years at the helm with zero debt, positive cash flow, and outright ownership of its facility. ECHO will continue serving our community, but without a doubt, will miss Mr. Haney's leadership and dedication.

At this moment, Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in extending our sincerest thanks to Mr. Haney for all the work he has done in our community, and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

THE 48TH ANNIVERSARY OF ASSASSINATION OF REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

# HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 11, 2016*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this year, the nation observes for the 48th year, the anniversary of the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Each year on this day, Americans remember the life and legacy of a man who brought hope and healing to America. Fatally shot at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee, on Thursday, April 4, 1968, at the age of 39, Dr. King was rushed to St. Joseph's Hospital, where he was pronounced dead at 7:05 p.m. that evening.

He was a prominent leader of the Civil Rights Movement and Nobel laureate for Peace who was known for his creative use of nonviolence and civil disobedience. Our hearts continue beating, rejoicing his enduring legacy, and knowing that nothing is impossible when we are guided by the better angels of our nature. The incident of domestic terrorism that took the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life, reminds us of his belief, "that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant."

Dr. King confronted the risk of death and made that recognition part of his philosophy. He taught that murder could not stop the struggle for equal rights. His inspiring words filled a great void in our nation, and answered our collective longing to become a country that truly lived by its noblest principles. Yet, Dr. King knew that it was not enough just to talk the talk; he had to walk the walk for his words to be credible.

And so we commemorate on this day a man of action, who put his life on the line for freedom and justice every day. We honor the courage of a man who endured harassment, threats and beatings, and even bombings. We commemorate the man who went to jail 29 times to achieve freedom for others, and who knew he would pay the ultimate price for his leadership, but kept on marching, protesting and organizing anyway.

Dr. King once said that we all have to decide whether we, "will walk in the light of creative altruism or the darkness of destructive selfishness. 'Life's most persistent and nagging question,' he said, is 'what are you doing for others?'" Strikingly, when Dr. King discussed the end of his mortal life during one of his last sermons, "I've Been to the Mountain Top," on February 4, 1968, in the pulpit of Ebenezer Baptist Church, even then he lifted the value of service upward as the hallmark of a full life, remarking: "I'd like somebody to mention on that day, Martin Luther King, Jr. tried to give his life serving others. I want you to say on that day, that I did try in my life . . . to love and serve humanity."

We should also remember that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was, above all, a person who was always willing to speak the truth. There is perhaps no better example of Dr. King's moral integrity and consistency than his criticism of the Vietnam War, waged by the Johnson Administration; an administration that was otherwise a friend and champion of civil and human rights.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia on January 15, 1929. His youth was spent in our country's Deep South, then run by Jim Crow laws and the Klu Klux Klan. For young African-Americans, it was an environment even more dangerous than the one they face today. Nonetheless, a young Martin managed to find a dream; one that he pieced together from his readings, including the Bible, classics, philosophical literature, and just about any other book he could get his hands on. Not only did those books allow him to educate himself, they also allowed him to work through the destructive and traumatic experiences of blatant discrimination, and the discriminatory abuse inflicted on him, his family, and humanity.

The life of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. that we honor today, could have turned out to be the life of just another African-American who would have had to learn to be happy with the limitations of his circumstances—with only what he was allowed. He learned however, to use his imagination and his dreams to see right through those "White Only" signs—to see the reality that all men, and women, regardless of their place of origin, their gender, or their creed, are created equal. Through his studies, Dr. King learned that training his mind and broadening his intellect effectively shielded him from the demoralizing effects of segregation and discrimination. Dr. King was a dreamer. His dreams were a tool, through which he was able to lift his mind beyond the reality of his segregated society and into a realm where it was possible that white and black, red, yellow and brown, and all others live and work alongside each other and prosper.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. however, was not an idle daydreamer. He shared his visions through speeches that motivated others to join the nonviolent effort to lift themselves from poverty and isolation and create an even better America where equal justice is a fact of life. In the Declaration of Independence in 1776, Thomas Jefferson wrote, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all Men are Created Equal."

At that time and for centuries to come, African-Americans were historically, culturally, socially and legally excluded from inclusion in the institutional execution of that declaration. Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" Speech, delivered nearly 53 years ago, on August 28, 1963, was a clarion call to each citizen of this great nation that still echoes today. His request was simply and eloquently conveyed—asking America to allow its citizens to live out the words written in its Declaration of Independence and to have a place in this nation's Bill of Rights.

Provoking that clarion call, the 1960s were a time of great crisis and conflict. The nightmares of Americans were filled with troubling images that rose like lava from volcanoes of violence and the terrors that they had to face, both domestically and internationally. The decade bore the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Vietnam War; and Americans were left to cradle the assassinations of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy, Malcolm X, Senator Robert F. Kennedy, and the man we honor here today.

Dr. Martin Luther King's dream helped us turn the corner on civil rights. Set in motion with Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott, enduring 381 days, ending only when

the United States Supreme Court ruled that discrimination, on account of race in the field of interstate public transportation, was unconstitutional. The dream whisked forward into the hearts of those aggrieved in Alabama's Bible belt and the minds of Selma citizens organizing and peacefully marching for suffrage on March 7, 1965—a march that ended with violence at the hands of law enforcement officers, as demonstrators crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

Dr. King used nonviolent tactics to protest against Jim Crow laws in the South, organizing and leading demonstrations for desegregation, labor and voting rights. When the life of Dr. Martin Luther King was stolen from us, he was still a very young man, only 39 years old. People remember that Dr. King died in Memphis, but few remember why he was there. On that fateful day in 1968 Dr. King came to Memphis to support a strike by the city's sanitation workers. The sanitation workers there had recently formed a chapter of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees to demand better wages and working conditions for themselves.

The city, however, refused to recognize the union and when the 1,300 employees walked off of their jobs, the police broke up the rally with mace and police batons. Resultantly, union leaders summoned Dr. King to Memphis. Despite the danger he might face, entering such a volatile situation, it was an invitation he could not refuse—not because he longed for danger, but because the labor movement was deeply intertwined with the civil rights movement, for which he gave so many years of his life.

Moments before his murder, Dr. King went out onto the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis and standing near his room, he was struck at 6:01 p.m., by a single .30-06 bullet that James Earl Ray fired from a Remington Model 760 Gamemaster, completing the assassination. The killing sparked outcry and riots across the country, in addition to stimulating political support for passage of the Gun Control Act of 1968.

For some, Dr. King's assassination meant the end of the strategy of nonviolence. Others in the movement reaffirmed the need to carry on his work—as the nations' work—continuing the tradition of nonviolence. That night in Indianapolis, shortly after discovering that Dr. King had been murdered, New York Senator Robert F. Kennedy, campaigning to gain the presidential nomination to represent the Democratic Party, who himself would be murdered in Los Angeles two months later, addressed an angry, heart-broken, shocked, and horrified audience in a predominantly black neighborhood of the city.

The Chief of Police in Indianapolis advised Senator Kennedy that he could not provide protection and was worried he would be at risk in talking about the death of the revered leader. Robert Kennedy saw something more powerful though and, channeling Dr. King's spirit, decided to go ahead. Standing on a flatbed truck, he spoke acknowledging that many would be filled with anger as rumors of riots palpated in listeners' hearts. He said: "For those of you who are black and are tempted to be filled with hatred and mistrust of the injustice of such an act, against all white people, I would only say that I can also feel in my own heart the same kind of feeling. I had a member of my family killed . . . killed by a white