

dedication and support to the Claiborne County Community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF EARLE C. WILLIAMS

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Earle C. Williams of McLean, Virginia. Earle was a Northern Virginia business, technology, philanthropic, and community leader and friend to so many throughout the Commonwealth. I am so honored to have known Earle as a friend and valued advisor. He was an insightful and gifted leader who accomplished so much and gave so much back to his community.

Earle was chairman of the Naval Research Advisory Committee, the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, and was a permanent director and past international chairman of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association. Earle began his storied career a leader in the Washington, D.C. area and was a man who truly cared for his employees and all those around him. He was someone who believes in a strong culture of education and the arts and worked tirelessly to promote these endeavors in his life.

His career as President and CEO of BDM International lasted from 1972 to 1992, during which he founded both the Professional Services Council and the Northern Virginia Technology Council. These organizations have since become major fixtures in the Northern Virginia region and Earle's work with them will forever impact our community. The Northern Virginia Technology Council appropriately named its annual lifetime achievement award, 'The Earle C. Williams Lifetime Achievement Award' and it is given to a person whose lifetime personal and professional endeavors have made a significant impact on the Northern Virginia technology community. His professional accomplishments were many and celebrated and he did it all with his wife and family always surrounding him and celebrating with him and giving back with him. He passed away peacefully, blessed with his dear wife, June, by his side. She and her daughters and family had been faithfully keeping vigil the final several weeks and never left his side.

Earle also worked extensively with Wolf Trap in Vienna, always valuing a culture of innovation as key to success in the arts. In 2015, he received the Jinx Hazel Arts Award for leadership and advocacy in the arts for his work with Wolf Trap and continued to work through the rest of his life to improve Wolf Trap so our entire community can benefit.

In 1994, Earle was inducted into the Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame and from 1991 to 2004 was a part of the Auburn University Foundation Board, serving as its chairman the final two years. Earle's work ethic and passion for helping those around him was unrivaled, and was shown in his continued service to the community. He will always be a role model not just to me, but to those in his community, his wife June, his three daughters Carol, Sharon, and Gayle, and his seven grandchildren. Mr. Speaker, I hope everyone joins me in honoring the life of Earle C. Williams.

KEANNA SMITH

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Keanna Smith for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Keanna Smith is an 11th grader at Bollman Technical Education Center and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Keanna Smith is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Keanna Smith for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO JIM BRADEN

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I wish to honor a man whose service to his community and commitment to the lives of many young men has brought great distinction to East Tennessee and this Nation.

Mr. Jim Braden was originally a resident of Ripley, West Virginia, before finding permanent roots in East Tennessee's City of Farragut where I am glad he stayed.

Jim Braden has devoted fifty-two years of his incredible life to coaching baseball as an unpaid volunteer. His impact on the Farragut community can be seen through organizing and implementing the countywide Knox County Middle School Baseball League and raising funds for facilities that support Farragut baseball.

Coach Braden worked with young men who would later go on to be team members of college, minor and major league teams.

Mr. Braden has worn many hats in life on top of his baseball cap. He bravely served our Country during Vietnam War as a member of a United States Navy helicopter squadron. He is the husband of Catherine who contributed to the success of Knox County and Farragut athletics. He is the father of two Farragut High School Alumni, Mark and Laura. He is the legend that the Farragut High School Dugout Club will name an award after.

The Farragut High School Dugout Club recognizes an outstanding player each season by recognizing them with a "Mr. Baseball" award.

On the occasion of the name of this award being changed to the "Coach Jim Braden Mr. Baseball Award" I call to the attention of my colleagues and other readers to celebrate his contribution to countless lives on and off the baseball field.

Coach Braden looks forward to passing along the love of the game to his grand-

children while instilling the importance of community involvement. He is a shining example of a true Tennessee Volunteer. I hope you will join me in celebrating his life and legacy.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,198,172,774,532.79. We've added \$8,571,295,725,619.71 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

CELEBRATING THE 60TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF REVEREND & MRS. I.J. JOHNSON

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Reverend I. J. Johnson and his wife, First Lady Betty Johnson as they celebrate their Diamond Anniversary of sixty years in pastoral service. The congregation of St. Mark's Missionary Baptist Church in Toledo, Ohio celebrates the milestone this month. Incredibly, I stood in this chamber ten years ago to recognize Pastor and First Lady Johnson's fiftieth jubilee.

As I noted then, born in Troy Alabama, one of eleven children of Mary and Levi Johnson, "Reverend Johnson entered the ministry at age twelve. By nineteen, he began pastoring in his home state of Alabama. He received his Bachelor of Theology degree from Easonian Baptist Seminary in Birmingham Alabama, and served four churches until coming to Ohio in 1955. In July of that year, he was invited by Dr. Israel Walker to conduct a revival at St. Mary's Baptist Church. During this visit he met the woman who would become his wife. On August 26, 1958, Reverend Johnson and Mother Betty Rae Johnson were married. Together they raised four children: Reverend C.L. Johnson, Reverend Michael Johnson, Denise Williams and Angela Taylor. In October of 1955, Pastor Johnson founded and organized St. Mark's Missionary Baptist Church. Started with just three members, the church grew over the half-century to more than 2,000 souls."

Pastor Johnson is a man devoted to the Gospel. In addition to his spiritual leadership at St. Mark's, Reverend Roberts has conducted revivals throughout the Eastern half of the United States. Many have been called to Christ through him and he has given wise counsel to countless people. His legacy continues through his sons, both called to preach in their own right.

A leader in our community as well, Pastor Johnson has served the Baptist Ministers Conference, the Fairside Community Organization,

Northwestern Ohio Missionary Baptist Association, Lucas County Mental Health Board, Interracial Interfaith Committee, Evangelical Board of the National Baptist Convention, and NAACP.

A beloved father, grandfather, great-grandfather, friend and mentor, Reverend Johnson has been a guiding light in our community for generations. Always alongside him, First Lady Johnson has been a nurturing mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, friend and confidant. Their union is a dynamic partnership which has been a beautiful example to all.

Together, Pastor and First Lady Johnson have turned hearts toward Jesus Christ and his message of Love. They exemplify the words of Thessalonians 1:3, "We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." The congregation of St. Mark's, their family and our community celebrate Rev. I.J. and Mrs. Betty Johnson in their life's work. We congratulate you, reminisce with you, and look toward the future together.

KARINA ROSALES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Karina Rosales for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Karina Rosales is an 11th grader at Mapleton Expeditionary School of the Arts and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Karina Rosales is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Karina Rosales for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING ASIAN-PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in observance of Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month. I extend my warm wishes to all Asian-Pacific Americans (APA), whose contributions to our society cannot be understated. From our unique culture, culinary practices and art, to the construction of vital infrastructure and contributions to science and technology, APA's have always been at the forefront of American innovation.

We as Congress have the ability and duty to recognize these important contributions to our

society, and it is my honor and privilege to do so. In 1977, Congress declared the first week of May as Asian-Pacific American Heritage week; and in 1992 passed a resolution that set aside the entire month to recognize APA's and the many contributions that they have made to American culture, science and industry.

As the Senior, APA Republican in Congress, I want to take this opportunity to celebrate Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month. I could not be more proud of the influence and contributions of those who came before me. It is their memory and sacrifices that drive me while performing my duties as the Member of Congress who represents American Samoa and I look forward to continuing the important work that they began.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the many contributions that APA's have made to this great nation and I ask that we carry this spirit throughout the entire year.

HONORING MELVIN LEE LOPER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a self-motivated leader and innovator of the community, Mr. Melvin Lee Loper, who was born on March 16, 1920 in Finkbine, Mississippi, which is no longer on the map. It was a logging camp for the loggers which was his father's occupation. His parents, the late Marshall and Mamie Loper, later moved to Raymond, Mississippi where they worked as sharecroppers. His only sibling was a younger brother, Otis Loper, who is now deceased.

In those days, rural schools did not go further than 8th grade. He lived with a cousin in Jackson, Mississippi to attend high school, and graduated from Lanier High School in 1939. He entered Tougaloo College but was drafted in the United States Army in World War II. He served for four years with a tour of duty in Europe. He returned to Tougaloo College and completed his studies in 1948 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics.

In 1973, he received a Master's Degree in Administration from Jackson College, after many years of attending summer school and taking classes on Saturdays. That was the way of life to further your education back in the day.

He began his teaching career in Smith county; later Sumner Hill High School and Jackson Public Schools. After thirty-three years of teaching he retired in 1985. He continued teaching several years after retirement because Mathematics teachers were always in demand.

He has been an active member of Farish Street Baptist Church for 55 years. He served as: Sunday School teacher, a Member of the Boy Scout Committee, and attended Wednesday night Bible Study faithfully until his recent illness. He has been in the choir for fifty years, and served as Church Treasurer for thirty-three years.

He was an original member of the Jackson Tougaloo Alumni Club, organized by the late Mrs. Thelma Sanders forty-four years ago. He

was serving as President when the club sponsored the Broadway play, "Aint Misbehavin'" which was a great success. He worked for years with the committee sponsoring the Ebony Fashion Show. He is a loyal supporter of Tougaloo College with his funds and presence, when able.

He is married to Gwendolyn Nero Loper and they have three children: Rodney, Larry and Gerrilyn; ten grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

His secret to longevity is hard work, attending to your business, being an avid sports fan, and marrying a good cook.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Melvin Lee Loper.

LEYDA BELMONTE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Leyda Belmonte for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Leyda Belmonte is a 10th grader at New Heights Academy and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Leyda Belmonte is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Leyda Belmonte for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

CONDEMNING RUSSIAN AGGRESSION

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn recent actions taken by Russia that threaten to destabilize an already tenuous international order. Putin's interventionist policies that seek to reestablish the Russian Federation as a world power have incited chaos and conflict along NATO's southern flank. Post-Soviet states once free from the yoke of oppression have been thrust back into civil and economic instability by Russian policies designed to sow discord and distrust along NATO's vulnerable underbelly.

Moscow's invasion of Georgia set in motion what has become an increasingly obvious pattern. Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014 and ongoing military campaign in the eastern parts of Ukraine have made it clear that Russia is openly proclaiming the redrawing of Europe's borders. Equally troubling, NATO members in Central, Eastern, and Southern Europe continue to face antagonism from Russia, including a substantial military