

A TRIBUTE: NATIONAL FREEDOM
DAY ASSOCIATION

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate National Freedom Day 2016, a holiday established to recognize the day President Abraham Lincoln signed the 13th Amendment freeing enslaved Blacks. On February 1, 1941, Major Richard Robert Wright, Sr. invited national and local leaders to meet in Philadelphia to formulate plans to set aside February 1st each year to memorialize the signing of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution by President Lincoln on February 1, 1865. One year after Major Wright's death in 1947, a bill passed both U.S. Houses of Congress making February 1st National Freedom Day.

Major Wright is recognized as a post reconstruction pioneer and trailblazer who dedicated his life to establishing this national day of commemoration of freedom. Each year on the first day of Black History Month, National Freedom Day Associations in cities and states across the nation come together for this annual observance to promote goodwill, harmony and equal opportunity and to rededicate the nation to these ideals.

And, as we look back at the life of Major Wright, we discover a true American story of resilience, foresight and faith. He was born into slavery in 1855. And, as a child he encountered retired Union Civil War General Oliver Otis Howard, in an Atlanta classroom. Summoning up unbelievable courage he said, "Sir, tell them we are rising," as a way to help northerners understand the hope of newly freed Blacks. These words came to be Major Wright's lifelong mantra.

His personal "rising" included: serving as a major in the Spanish-American War, founding and leading Savannah State College; attending the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania at the age of 67; and, founding the Citizens and Southern Bank and Trust Company, in Philadelphia, the only northern Black-owned bank at the time.

Therefore, I am proud to honor the life and contributions of Major Wright, a great American visionary and trailblazer and the National Freedom Day Association as it stands as an historic reminder of our nation's promise of freedom and justice.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOANN
GONYEA'S SERVICE TO THE CITY
OF TRENTON

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joann Gonyea for her 31 years of service in the Parks and Recreation Department of Trenton, Michigan.

Joann began her career with the City of Trenton Parks and Recreation Department as a Program Coordinator in 1985. She became the Assistant Director in 1990 and served in that role for 20 years before being appointed Director in 2011.

Many of the events and activities for which Trenton has become known started with Joann. During an internship with Wayne County Parks 31 years ago, she designed the "Somewhere in Time" event which captures the spirit of the iconic Elizabeth Park in the early 1900's and engages residents with the history of their city. Joann has also been the driving force behind the "Community Builds" program and the "Healthy Trenton Initiative" which both promote healthy and active lifestyles by emphasizing teamwork.

Joann is instrumental in the success of community events in Trenton and is well known for her ability to organize and inspire volunteers. Many projects, including the recent addition of a playground to Affholter Park, are finished in record time due to the groundswell of community support Joann encourages. It's because she practices what she preaches, and generously dedicates her time to organizations throughout the Downriver community, such as the International Wildlife Refuge Alliance where she serves as a board member.

Joann is part of the heart and soul of Trenton, Michigan and the Downrivers. Tonight, we recognize Joann with the Duane Brannick award for outstanding service to the city, an award which is annually given to leaders in the city that go above and beyond. I know that Joann is the perfect recipient of this prestigious award and I am proud to call her a friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Joann Gonyea for her 31 years of service to the city of Trenton. I thank her for her leadership, and wish her many years of success.

IN RECOGNITION OF DENNIS
HOLLOWAY'S SELECTION AS THE
RICHMOND COUNTY CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE 2015 CITIZEN OF THE
YEAR

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Dennis Holloway for his selection as the Richmond County Chamber of Commerce's 2015 Citizen of the Year. Mr. Holloway represents the best our area has to offer, and this selection illustrates the profound impact he has had on our community.

Mr. Holloway decided early in life to dedicate himself to helping others in need, and he has not stopped that mission since. Mr. Holloway served in the United States Army as a member of the 82nd Airborne until he was honorably discharged in 1967 after serious injuries he sustained during a training exercise hindered his deployment. After surviving this harrowing ordeal, Mr. Holloway worked in the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission for 30 years.

The list of charitable acts Mr. Holloway has carried out and the number of leadership positions within several community service organizations he holds demonstrates the commitment he has made to serving those in his community, and beyond. As a recovery team leader for the North Carolina Baptist Men, a nondenominational organization dedicated to providing relief to those in need, Mr. Holloway

and his team have done everything from traveling down to South Carolina to assist families recovering from the historic flooding that took place last year to building wheelchair ramps at the homes of disabled community residents. Mr. Holloway is an inspiration to all the Richmond County community and this award is truly a testament to the appreciation he has so rightfully earned.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Dennis Holloway for receiving this prestigious distinction, and wishing him well as he continues to serve the people of Richmond County, North Carolina.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call vote number 47 on February 1, 2016, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted aye.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DIANE BLACK

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 46 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I was not present during roll call vote number 45 on January 13, 2016. I would like to reflect that on roll call vote number 45 I would have voted No.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, on February 1, 2016, I was unavoidably detained and missed recorded votes Number 46 through 47. Had I been present, on Roll Call Number 46, H.R. 2187—Fair Investment Opportunities for Professional Experts Act, I would have voted YEA, and on Roll Call Number 47, H.R. 4168—Small Business Capital Formation Enhancement Act, I would have voted YEA.

TO HONOR THE LIFE OF SHERIFF
MAYNARD B. REID, JR.

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Randolph County Sheriff Maynard B. Reid, Jr., who passed away on January 5, 2016 at the age of 69. We send our prayers and sincerest condolences to his wife, Sandra, and the entire Reid family.

Sheriff Reid began his life of public service in the United States Marine Corps and served his nation during the Vietnam War. After returning from his service, Sheriff Reid joined the Asheboro Police Department and eventually moved to the Randolph County Sheriffs Office. In 2006, he was elected Sheriff of Randolph County and served in his post for 10 years. Under his leadership, there was a great emphasis on community outreach efforts and enabling those under his command to better serve the people of Randolph County. This could be seen through his efforts to modernize officer's patrol vehicles and the creation of a task force designed to combat internet predators that targeted children.

Sheriff Reid was a 40 year veteran of law enforcement who spent nearly his entire life serving and protecting his community. He was an inspiration to all who had the honor of serving beside him and under his leadership. The Randolph County community will always remember the man he was and the legacy he has passed down to future public servants.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in celebrating the life of Sheriff Maynard B. Reid, Jr. and honoring him for his profound commitment to his country, his community, and the numerous lives he touched throughout his life.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MICHAEL
JAMES RIDDERING

HON. PATRICK MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Michael James Riddering. Mike, who dedicated his life to serving others as an American missionary in Burkina Faso, was tragically taken from this world far too soon at the age of 45, a victim of the terrorist attack that struck this West African nation on January 15th. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Amy and their children Haley, Delaney, Biba, and Moise during this most difficult time.

Five years ago, Mr. Riddering and his wife Amy left their home in Hollywood, Florida to move to Burkina Faso to run the Sheltering Wings' mission in the town of Yako. Together, they helped women and children in need, running an orphanage, school, and medical clinic. While in Burkina Faso, the couple adopted two children, 15-year-old Biba and 4-year-old Moise.

It was this commitment and service that led him to Ouagadougou on the day of the terrorist attack in the nation's capital. Mike had gone to greet a team of missionaries who were just arriving in Burkina Faso to work at

the orphanage when the area was seized by Al Qaeda-affiliated terrorists.

We memorialize Mike's life by honoring him in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD here today. But we honor his memory by recommitting ourselves to the truth shared by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and a testament to how Mike lived his life of service: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that."

Mr. Speaker, while Mike Riddering's life was cut short by those hoping to instill fear, hatred, and darkness in our world, his life of service, light, and love will never fade. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends and all the lives he touched both in South Florida and Burkina Faso. It is through them that his light will continue to shine on.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT
GENERAL LAWRENCE F. SNOWDEN

HON. JOHN KLINE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great American, a great Marine, and a champion of lasting friendship between the people of the United States and Japan. As our nation prepares to recognize the 71st anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima, it is timely to recognize a veteran of that iconic struggle in the Second World War.

Lieutenant General Lawrence F. Snowden was born April 14, 1921 in Charlottesville, Virginia and graduated from the University of Virginia in 1942. Prior to graduating, General Snowden enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve in February, 1942 and was called to active duty in May, 1942. He was commissioned as a Marine Second Lieutenant on July 18, 1942. Assigned to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, he served initially with the 23rd Marine Regiment, assigned to the 3rd and then the 4th Marine Divisions.

From February, 1944 until March, 1945 he saw combat as a Company Commander with the 23rd Marines in the capture of Roi-Namur in the Marshall Islands, the capture of Saipan and Tinian, and the legendary assault on Iwo Jima which commenced on February 19, 1945. It was Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz who, when speaking of the Battle of Iwo Jima, stated that, "Uncommon valor was a common virtue." General Snowden is the senior surviving American veteran of that battle in which he was wounded twice. General Snowden retired from the Marine Corps after more than 37 years of active service in 1979, serving his last years as Chief of Staff, Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps.

His commitment to our nation and healing the wounds of the war did not end at his retirement. General Snowden became a regular traveler to Japan and to Iwo Jima leading a "Reunion of Honor" with his fellow veterans of the battle from both the United States and Japan. His mission is a solemn one of reconciliation. As the widow of the Japanese commanding general said to him, "Once enemies, now friends."

General Snowden himself has stated, "Those men didn't want to be here any more than we did. They were doing their duty. You don't hate anybody for that." As a further sign

of his commitment to goodwill, General Snowden was here in this chamber in April, 2015 as a guest of the Prime Minister of Japan Shinzō Abe when he addressed the Congress. At his side was the grandson of the commander of the Japanese garrison on Iwo Jima while General Snowden's efforts were recognized by the Prime Minister.

As a 25-year veteran of the Marine Corps I am honored to recognize the historic anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima, and I am pleased to call attention to this great American, Lieutenant General Lawrence F. Snowden. I applaud his contribution to the past, present, and future of our great nation as a Marine and a statesman.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on February 1, 2016. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: YES on Roll Call Number 46; YES on Roll Call Number 47.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to state that I was not able to be on the House floor for roll call vote 46 to H.R. 2187 taken on February 1, 2016. Had I been present for this vote, I would have voted aye.

The Fair Investment Opportunities for Professional Experts Act expands the definition of accredited investor to also include professional experts. This ensures that investors in my Congressional district have the right to access suitable investment vehicles and is critical for markets to operate efficiently.

HONORING BARRY COATES

HON. TOM RICE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Barry Coates, a United States Army veteran from McBee, South Carolina.

Barry passed away last week from terminal cancer that was left untreated by the VA for over a year. Even as he battled his illness, Barry remained a champion for improving medical access and care for all veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I join with the people of South Carolina in recognizing the life of Barry. Together, we honor his service and dedication to the fight for better treatment for our veterans. His contributions to this fight leave an indelible mark that will always be remembered.

Barry will be greatly missed and I ask that we keep Barry's wife, Donna, his five children, Scotty, Breanna, Shane, Troy, and Tyler, and