

Troy first served his country as a Marine, where he excelled in the high standards of the Marine Corps and rose to the rank of Staff Sergeant. Troy's southern upbringing and faithful Marine Corps service made him a gentleman, through and through. Troy always demonstrated the bearing of a leader, and had the character to back it up.

Troy joined my staff in 2001 as a part time worker manning the front desk. In a very short period of time, it became apparent that he had a natural talent for this business and helping constituents.

In his 16 years he did just about all the jobs that make up a district office: receptionist, constituent services representative, constituent services manager, constituent services director, field representative, legislative advisor, and regional director. Troy has been a jack-of-all-trades on my team, acquiring expertise in a wide array of issues, policy, and casework, and he mastered each area quickly.

In particular, Troy's 11 years of service in the Marine Corps equipped him with an unmatched ability to help veterans in need throughout my district. Troy played an integral role in our effort to save "The Dom"—the local VA facility in Southern Oregon—when the VA shortsightedly made an attempt to close that facility. Now renamed as the Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center and Clinics, this facility continues to provide critical services to thousands of veterans each year.

Over the years, thousands of individual constituents received personal guidance and assistance from Troy. He was the guru of constituent services, not only on Team Walden but also in the Oregon delegation. Whether it was casework involving the IRS, veterans and military service members, or Social Security and Medicare, Troy became a recognized expert at identifying the problem and promptly finding a solution. When the delegation constituent services folks got together, Troy was looked to by all as the most knowledgeable person in the room when it came to taking care of constituents and ensuring that the agencies had the opportunity to make things right.

On top of that, when most people struggled to master the skills of proficient writing required of congressional staffers, Troy stood out as a naturally gifted writer. He has that rare ability of organizing complex concepts and putting them on paper so that they can be easily understood by anyone. Troy was a born communicator who could deliver bad news to a constituent with compassion and good news with enthusiasm.

His ability to communicate, breadth of knowledge, and natural leadership made him a key part of welcoming new members to the team. Eager to show new staff the ropes and make them feel at home, Troy became a respected mentor and trainer to those joining Team Walden. New staffers were often advised to "Ask Troy. He'll walk you through how to get the job done and done right."

Outside of the office, Troy is a man of many gifts and talents. He is a gourmet cook—those who worked with Troy over the years have fond memories of the incredible Italian lunches he prepared for his fellow staffers. He co-founded the Jackson County Veterans Advisory Committee, and exhibits selfless service even in his off hours. As a respected member of the local veterans community in southern Oregon, Troy will continue to serve with Jack-

son County Veterans after he leaves my office.

He is a family man in every sense of the word. He is a devoted husband and father, and most recently, a proud grandfather.

Troy will be impossible to replace. Though he will never truly leave Team Walden, I will miss his dedication to serve Oregonians. It comes as no shock to anyone who knows Troy that his next endeavor will involve serving his community—this time with the United Way. I have no doubt Troy will bring his sense of duty to helping others, his fine character, and his leadership to his next career—just as he did for my team for 16 years.

NORTH BRONX SECTION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 2017

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a very special community group that for 50 years has inspired and strengthened the community, the North Bronx Section of the National Council of Negro Women. The North Bronx Section's legacy of outstanding leadership and advocacy for social justice and change has had a transformative effect on countless lives, and I am truly fortunate to represent such a fine organization in Congress.

In early 1967, six women under the leadership of Daisy S. George met to see if it was feasible to form a section of the National Council of Negro Women. This small nucleus grew into a group of more than 50, the amount required to apply for a charter. By May of that year, with a charter drawn up and adopted with by-laws and a constitution, the North Bronx Section became official members of the Council.

By 1968, the Section had initiated a Consumer Education Program throughout the Bronx, and by 1970, operated a voter registration storefront on 225th Street. Throughout the 80's and 90's the Section was involved in all kinds of civic minded activities, from sponsoring day care and tutorial programs, to co-hosting health fairs and educational forums. They even began serving Thanksgiving Dinner in 1994, and still to this day serve over 100 meals every year to seniors, the homeless, and area residents.

All of this has been possible through strong leadership, including 14 amazing Presidents: Virdell Mills; Jayne Harris; Oneater Sinclair; Carmen Snaggs; Eva C. Daniels; Agnes Haywood; Juanita Miner; Olia Barrett; Burmadine Hind; Jessie Williams-Collins; Willie E.P. Bowman; Laura Rhodan; Jessie Davis Walls; and Patricia Kerr. These leaders have been instrumental in making the North Bronx Section the success it has been for 50 years. I want to congratulate them on this milestone.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. MARGE PRESTON FOR HER DISTINGUISHED CAREER IN HIGHER EDUCATION

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 2017

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Marge Preston for her outstanding career in higher education. Ms. Preston has served the State of Michigan and its young people well through her work with Central Michigan University and Eastern Michigan University.

Ms. Preston began her career with Central Michigan University, where she spent 27 years serving in a variety of positions, including Administrative Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs and Coordinator of the University's Career Resource Center. In 2003, she joined Eastern Michigan University and has served the EMU community with distinction during her tenure. She began as the university's Executive Secretary to the Vice President for University Relations, and ultimately held several positions, including Executive Assistant to the Vice President of Government and Community Relations. In this capacity, Ms. Preston managed all aspects of the GCR office, including assisting the University's legal counsel with inquiries, serving as a liaison for state and federal officials and coordinating special events and projects on behalf of the EMU Vice President.

Ms. Preston has been a tireless advocate on behalf of EMU and the Ypsilanti community at large through her service to the university. As a result of her efforts, EMU has been an effective policy advocate whose work with the state and federal government has benefitted both students and educators. Ms. Preston also received recognition throughout her career, including receiving the Central Michigan University Staff Excellence Award. She was also a co-chair for EMU's United Way Campus Wide Drive, helping raise over \$100,000, and served on the EMU Planning Committee for Michigan Women's American Council on Education's annual meeting. She has had a tremendous impact on the direction of higher education in Michigan, and her hard work and expertise will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Marge Preston for her distinguished career in higher education. Ms. Preston has effectively served the State of Michigan and its students through her work with the state's public universities.

RECOGNIZING THE FIFTH ANNUAL TASTE OF ETHIOPIA

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 2017

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 5th Annual Taste of Ethiopia. The Taste of Ethiopia promotes cultural immersion and provides community services for our extensive Ethiopian immigrant community in Colorado. The event is a unique showcase of Ethiopian music, food, art, crafts, culture, games, and dance.

Moreover, the festival is not only a great opportunity for family fun and bringing the Ethiopian community together, but it also serves to highlight the individual contributions of Ethiopian immigrants to our community. In this spirit, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the following organizers of the Taste of Ethiopia for their hard work and dedication to make this event for our community possible: Nebiyu Asfaw, Sosna Dagne, Elizabeth Moltot, Adanech Denbel, Fikru Ayele, Bizuye Sebsbe, Tilahun Dessie, Aschalew Agonafer, Yalemwork Tekola, Girum Alemayehu, Sophia Belew, Senait Keteman, Selam Ayele, Helen Tekle, Ayinalem Bayu and Yohannes Mengistu.

Mr. Speaker, the 6th District of Colorado is home to the largest Ethiopian community in the State of Colorado and it continues to be an honor for me to represent so many Ethiopian immigrants in the United States House of Representatives. I had the privilege of attending last year's Taste of Ethiopia and it is an honor for me to again be included in the Taste of Ethiopia annual celebration.

I again offer my sincere congratulations to the organizers of the Taste of Ethiopia for their tireless work to promote the Ethiopian culture in the State of Colorado.

HONORING HON. RANDALL T. ENG

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 2017

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Justice Randall T. Eng, a man whose life and dedication to our legal system stands as an inspiration to all New Yorkers.

Originally from Canton, China, Judge Eng was raised in New York City where he attended city public schools. He received a B.A. degree from SUNY Buffalo in 1969 followed by his J.D. from St. John's University School of Law in 1972.

Following Law School, Justice Eng began his long and esteemed career in public service as an assistant district attorney in Queens, where he served from 1973 to 1980. He was the Deputy Inspector General of the New York City Correction Department from 1980 to 1981, and later became the Inspector General, a role in which he served from 1981 to 1983. Justice Eng first took the bench in the Criminal Court of the City of New York in 1983, and in 1991, he presided in Supreme Court, Queens County until being elevated to the Appellate Division in 2008. In 2012, Governor Cuomo appointed Justice Eng to lead the Second Department, where he became the first Asian American to serve as presiding Justice of an Appellate Division. Justice Eng oversees one of the busiest appellate courts in the country, helps to guide New York's judicial policy, and supervises the operation of the court's ancillary agencies, including the Office of Attorneys for Children, the Committee of Character and Fitness, and Mental Hygiene Legal Services.

In addition to his prolific legal career, Justice Eng has also proudly served his country in other distinguished ways. From 1970 to 2004, he was a member of the New York Army National Guard, retiring as State Judge Advocate with the rank of colonel.

Throughout his career, Justice Eng has been a trailblazer. In almost every legal position he has ever held, he has been the first Asian American in that position. This year, the Westchester Black Bar Association is honoring Justice Eng at their annual Spring Gala. He is most deserving of this recognition. Congratulations to Justice Eng on this wonderful honor.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to your and our colleagues' attention an important ribbon-cutting ceremony in Winchester, Virginia, on Friday, August 4, 2017, officially announcing the renaming of the former Old Court House Civil War Museum to the "Shenandoah Valley Civil War Museum".

The ceremony was also an opportunity to honor a great civic leader of the Shenandoah Valley, Jim Wilkins, Jr., with the presentation of the Graves Family Philanthropic Leadership Award, in recognition of Mr. Wilkins' leadership on behalf of civil war battlefield preservation and other worthy causes, including the Frederick County/Winchester Law Enforcement Foundation, which he helped establish.

This name change signals a continuation of the energetic expansion of the preservation and enhancement of civil war sites by the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, on whose Board of Directors Mr. Wilkins is an active member. Under the visionary leadership of CEO Keven Walker, the new name of the museum, coupled with new and renovated exhibits that will include youth activities and interactive learning tools, will make the museum a compelling attraction for Civil War enthusiasts and their families. The foundation will be able to tell the broader story of the Civil War in the entire Shenandoah Valley that will include Union, Confederate, civilian and African-American perspectives.

These initiatives of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation and its partners have had a significantly positive economic impact on my Valley constituents. The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District is an important driver of the regional economy, contributing hundreds of millions of dollars annually and sustaining thousands of jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in thanking CEO Keven Walker, Jim Wilkins, Jr. and the Board of Directors and staff of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation for the extraordinary energy and commitment they have brought to preserving the vitally important story of the Civil War in the Shenandoah Valley, including the newly named Shenandoah Valley Civil War Museum which promises to become a driver of the regional economy as it emerges as an important center of the history and culture of the Shenandoah Valley.

TRIBUTE TO MITCHELL J. ROSS, DIRECTOR OF THE ACQUISITIONS AND GRANTS OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA)

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 2017

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the remarkable accomplishments of Mitchell J. Ross, the Director of the Acquisition and Grants Office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

This month, August 2017, Mitchell retires after more than 20 years of faithful, honorable, and distinguished service to the United States government and the people of the United States.

Mitchell Ross began his career of service to the United States government and the people of the United States when he was appointed to the first class of Presidential Management Interns and assigned to the Department of the Navy.

Mitchell then went on to join the Naval Air Systems Command as a career civil servant and became a Contracting Officer.

After a period spent in the private sector, during which time he held leadership roles specializing in government relations, Mitchell returned to continue serving our nation in his capacity as the Director of the Acquisitions and Grants Office at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The contracts and grants that are awarded by NOAA not only address critical national priorities in the environment and science, but also provide small, minority and women-owned businesses an opportunity to expand and succeed in the public sector.

Mitchell Ross was committed to helping women and minority communities secure opportunities to compete and excel.

I thank Mitchell Ross for his efforts in facilitating the development and success of a diverse array of business owners.

Mr. Speaker, Mitchell Ross' excellent performance, distinguished service, and professionalism have earned him the respect and friendship of his colleagues, and countless women and minority business-owners.

I know my colleagues join me in extending our thanks and appreciation to Mitchell Ross for his service to our nation and our very best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement.

He will be missed dearly.

HONORING STEVEN I. ROSENFELD

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 2017

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a member of the community who has been an instrumental force for good at the Riverdale Temple, Mr. Steven Rosenfeld.

Steven resides in Westchester County with his wife, Lori, and dog, Griffin. He is a member of Riverdale Temple, where he is President of the Men's Club. He has been actively involved in the sales and marketing of consumer products most of his adult life. Steven