

I met Mr. Farrell at his organization's Juneteenth Celebration in Palm Beach, Florida, during the summer of 2015. Since then, I have witnessed his steadfast commitment to developing the highest standards and best practices for increasing civic engagement among minority communities.

Mr. Farrell's organization was also recently approved by the Florida Department of State to serve as a Third-Party Voter Registration Organization. With increased grassroots activity, active social media and daily communication with thousands of citizens, I have no doubt that Mr. Farrell will continue to be successful.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud his hard work and wish him the best in the future.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JAMES
CALVIN (BILL) ROBERTSON
BRIDGE DEDICATION

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 18, 2017

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today we honor lifelong Wayne County resident, Private First Class James Calvin (Bill) Robertson, decorated combat veteran, farmer, friend, and family man.

Born on the 4th of July, 1923, PFC Robertson trained as an Army Cannoneer and shipped to the Asiatic Pacific Theater of Operations in 1945 to protect American ground forces from enemy aircraft at Iwo Jima. His Anti-Aircraft Artillery unit's mission: To keep the airstrips open and safe for refueling B29 bombers on their way to targets on the Japanese mainland.

For this critical service, PFC Robertson was awarded the World War II Victory Medal, The Good Conduct Medal, The American Theater Ribbon, and the Asian-Pacific Theater Ribbon with two Bronze Service Stars. His battalion enabled American forces to invade Japan and change the trajectory of the war in favor of the Allies. But he rarely spoke of his military sacrifice, seared into our minds by the iconic U.S. Marine Corp monument of soldiers raising the American flag high above the Iwo Jima battlefield in February 1945. PFC Robertson simply acknowledged that he was there.

He returned to Wayne County in December 1945, married, and purchased farmland through which the Middle Butler Creek flows. Many family memories were made with his eight children, on this land, in this creek, and throughout his 90 years.

We dedicate the Butler Creek Bridge to the memory of Private First Class James Calvin (Bill) Robertson, World War II hero, who not only ensured the lives lost at Iwo Jima were not lost in vain, but who left a legacy of service and sacrifice.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR.
EDWARD D. BERGIN, JR.

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 18, 2017

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Edward Bergin,

Jr., who passed away on August 12, 2017 at the age of 74. Mr. Bergin served an impressive five terms as mayor of Waterbury, Connecticut, and his strong and dedicated leadership guided the city through substantial economic change. Those of us in Connecticut will remember Mayor Bergin as a devoted public servant who exemplified what an elected official strives to be. He wanted to improve his community and help every person he represented.

Mayor Bergin was a fierce advocate for Waterbury, and his roots in a blue-collar Irish family made him keenly conscious of the challenges facing the city. He grew up with a strong appreciation for public service, as his father, Edward Bergin, Sr., was elected to four terms as mayor of the city. The community knew Mayor Bergin for his commitment to Waterbury and his willingness to meet with and listen to people from all political perspectives.

As mayor, Bergin led a number of critical initiatives to preserve important parts of Waterbury's history, while also championing the city's revitalization. Mayor Bergin successfully fought to stop the demolition of the Palace Theater, which would later be restored, preserving an important part of the city's past. He also launched a large economic development project to tear down the Scovill manufacturing plant in the core of Waterbury to make room for the Brass Mill Center Mall. Mayor Bergin has a well-deserved reputation for astute management and organization of the government.

Mr. Speaker, Mayor Edward Bergin was a dedicated public servant who spent his career making Waterbury a better city. It is fitting and proper that we honor his legacy here today. All those who knew him will cherish his memory, and the citizens of Waterbury will long remember his contributions to the city.

TRIBUTE TO JOE HERRING

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 18, 2017

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Joe Herring for 31 years of distinguished economic development service to the citizens of South-Central Idaho and on the occasion of his retirement from his current position as President of Region IV Development Association, Inc.

In 1980, Mr. Herring came to Idaho to pursue a graduate degree in geography and land use planning after completing his undergraduate studies at New Mexico State University. Like other transplants to Idaho, Mr. Herring was drawn to the state's wild places and exceptional natural beauty.

Mr. Herring's career in economic development began in 1980 as a land use planner in Moscow, Idaho—taking a part-time job that soon turned into a passion for assisting Idaho's rural communities. In 1986, he joined Region IV Development Association, Inc. as its Executive Director and set in motion a decades' long career working to improve the lives and livelihoods of Idaho residents. Under his leadership, the small regional planning organization grew from offering only work force training into supporting a wide variety of programs to promote job creation, economic development, community development, downtown re-

vitalization, business financing, and many others.

During Mr. Herring's tenure, Region IV Development has been able to facilitate more than \$1.2 billion in public and private sector investment in the eight counties of South-Central Idaho. These public improvement and business projects have supported the creation of more than 5,000 new employment opportunities for Idahoans. From the development of new drinking water systems to the construction of small rural clinics, from industrial park development to building new technical education facilities, Mr. Herring's impact on communities throughout rural Idaho has been significant.

With a focus on expanding community and economic development in South-Central Idaho, Mr. Herring has founded, incorporated, and led a number of organizations that have contributed to the growth and sustainability of rural communities throughout Idaho. Looking to bring state, federal and private sector resources to bear on local issues, Mr. Herring has served Idahoans in many capacities including as chairman of the Idaho Rural Partnership Advisory Council, the Idaho Rural Partnership, Rural Community Assistance Corporation, Idaho-Nevada Community Development Financial Institution, and the South-Central Community Action Partnership. Mr. Herring has shown exceptional commitment to strengthening support networks available to foster small businesses and to help rural communities attract economic investments. To that end, Mr. Herring was responsible for bringing the Small Business Development Center to the region. He was also instrumental to the incorporation of the Southern Idaho Tourism and the Southern Idaho Economic Development Organization. Mr. Herring has led an amazing career dedicated to serving the people of Idaho.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely thank Mr. Herring for his service and commitment to economic development in Idaho. On behalf of a grateful state, I wish him well in the next chapter of his life.

RECOGNIZING RODNEY R. LEWIS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 18, 2017

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Rodney R. Lewis, who has been proudly serving as the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Lewis Energy Group for more than 35 years.

Rodney R. Lewis was born in St. Louis, Missouri on July 13, 1954, but grew up in the city of Laredo, where he spent his summers working on his grandparents' ranch. He graduated from United High School in Laredo, Texas in 1972, and then from Texas A&M International University with a degree in criminal justice.

Rodney Lewis started his career in the oil industry in 1978 by working for Stampede Energy and the R.L. Burns Corporation. Eventually, through hard work and support from his family, Lewis became the proud owner of his own well, and in January of 1983, Lewis Petro Properties was created. Over its 35 years, Lewis Petro Properties grew into Lewis Energy Group, a fully integrated E&P company with its

own drilling rigs, frack spreads and completion services, sand plant, gathering system and rail.

Recently, Lewis Energy Group has undertaken many notable successes. In 2003, Lewis Energy entered into an agreement with Pemex to become the first American company to produce natural gas in Mexico, and in 2005, Lewis Energy Group expanded to become an operator in Colombia. Today, Lewis Energy Group is the fourth largest natural gas producer in Texas.

Outside of managing Lewis Energy Group, Lewis also serves on the board of the National Aerospace Museum, where he assists in fundraising efforts to keep the institution going.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize Rodney R. Lewis.

CONDEMNING THE TERRORIST ATTACK IN BARCELONA, SPAIN

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 18, 2017

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in remembrance of the innocent victims who lost their lives, and those who were seriously injured, yesterday in the cowardly but horrific attack perpetrated by terrorists in Barcelona, Spain.

Our hearts and prayers are with the families and loved ones of the victims and our thanks and appreciation go to the first responders who selflessly came to the aid of their fellow members of the human family.

Barcelona will emerge from the attacks stronger than ever and more firmly committed to the values and principles that have made it so great.

And as Barcelona recovers and responds, I hope its people take comfort in the certain knowledge that the people of the United States stand in solidarity with them.

Today's attack is a reminder of the common danger the free, democratic, and peace loving nations of the world face from those who reject the norms of civilized society and abuse the liberties and freedoms afforded them by free societies.

It is also a reminder that violence and instability in the Middle East resonate far beyond the region, and the international community must not retreat from addressing it.

Barcelona is a shining example of everything these terrorists despise: a vibrant, cosmopolitan European city and an open, inclusive society.

It is a city steeped in history and art, and its dynamism invites millions of visitors from around the world.

The United States will offer its full assistance to the people of Spain as they work to bring the perpetrators and the planners of this attack to justice.

We will be relentless in our fight against terror.

We will not allow terrorists to succeed in blinding us with fear.

To confront this threat abroad and protect the American people at home, we must be both strong and smart.

No terrorist can overcome the strength of our values.

I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in remembrance of the victims of the terrorist attack in Barcelona.

IN RECOGNITION OF ALEXANDER POZIN, WORLD WAR II VETERAN

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 18, 2017

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mr. Alexander Pozin, a World War II veteran, who recently celebrated his 100th birthday.

Alexander Pozin was born on May 1st, 1917, in Odessa, Ukraine. That same year in Russia, the Communist Revolution took place, leaving the Pozin family in a state of poverty. After working many different jobs to provide for his family, Pozin graduated from law school in 1939, and went on to become a successful lawyer. However, in June of 1944, Pozin was called to serve in the Russian Army as a fighter and bomber pilot in the 210th Division of the Soviet Air Force. By the end of the war, Pozin had reached the rank of lieutenant colonel, and had earned 18 medals from the Soviet government.

Following his career in the military, Mr. Pozin moved to the United States. He became a professor at Stetson University, where he specialized in Slavic languages.

Today, Mr. Pozin is resident of St. Augustine, Florida. Here, his philanthropic endeavors have had a valuable and visible impact on the St. Augustine community. He has volunteered with Learn To Read St. Johns County, and the Council on Aging's Senior Center in St. Augustine. It is within these organizations that Mr. Pozin has connected with other individuals who weathered the storm of World War II, and shared his heroic and inspiring story.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Mr. Alexander Pozin for his service in World War II, and for his commitment to philanthropy and his community.

THE RETIREMENT OF REV. MELVIN V. WADE, SR. FROM MOUNT MORIAH BAPTIST CHURCH AFTER 42 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 18, 2017

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the pastoral service of Reverend Melvin Von Wade, Sr. who will retire in September from his position as senior pastor of Mount Moriah Baptist Church of Los Angeles.

Born September 18, 1944 in Memphis, Tennessee, Melvin Von Wade earned a Bachelor's degree from Bishop College in Dallas, Texas, pursued graduate theological training at Perkins Theoretical Seminary in Dallas, Texas, and completed his seminary work at Faith Theological Seminary in Tacoma, Washington, where he received Master of Arts and Doctor of Ministry degrees.

Over the last 42 years, Rev. Wade has led his congregation in its efforts to serve vulnerable populations in Los Angeles. Under his stewardship, Mount Moriah developed a 40-unit senior citizens' apartment complex, the Mount Moriah Senior Villa.

Perhaps most significantly, he worked to foster cooperation between the four National Baptist Conventions. As former President of the National Missionary Baptist Convention of America (NMBCA), he organized an unprecedented meeting between the four National Baptist Conventions. Moreover, Reverend Wade has served as Second Vice President of the California Missionary Baptist State Convention; Board member Council of National Black Churches; and Board Member of the Baptist World Alliance.

In addition to his work within his faith community, Rev. Wade is known to have worked to advocate for civil rights. He is a lifetime member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. I congratulate Rev. Wade and the Mount Moriah Baptist Church community on their fruitful partnership of over four decades. I wish the best to both Rev. Wade and the congregation, as each embarks on a new chapter of service.