

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2017

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on roll call vote 77, I was not present because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “NAY.”

RECOGNIZING MS. NAOMI BASHKANSKY FOR HER PERFORMANCE AT THE 2016 WORLD SCHOOL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2017

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ms. Naomi Bashkansky of Bellevue, Washington for her victory at the 2016 World School Chess Championship. Like many other students of Olde Middle School, Naomi works every day to balance extracurricular activities, family commitments, and school life. With the help of coaches, teachers, and family, she strives to mold her own unique identity as a student, a friend, a daughter, and a citizen. Although many aspects of Naomi’s life may be familiar to us all, there was nothing ordinary about her performance at the chess championship.

Naomi’s accomplishment and strength of character are deserving of the highest level of praise. Naomi not only out-performed 400 young chess players representing 30 different countries, but she graciously represented the people of the 9th Congressional District and the United States of America.

During the competition, Naomi’s path to victory was not always clear; she suffered some early losses and could have easily admitted defeat, but she did no such thing. As she competed in the championship round, she bore not only the weight of her own expectations, but also the burden of representing the nation. At such a young age, Naomi’s courage and determination is certainly extraordinary. I know I will continue to hear about her achievements for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Ms. Naomi Bashkansky on a hard-earned victory and wish her the best of luck in the future.

COMMEMORATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2017

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this February we recognize and celebrate the 40th commemoration of Black History Month.

This month we celebrate the contributions of African Americans to the history of our great nation, and pay tribute to trailblazers, pio-

neers, heroes, and leaders like the 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama; Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall; U.S. Senator Blanche Kelso Bruce; U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Jordan; U.S. Congressman Mickey Leland; Astronauts Dr. Guion Stewart Bluford, Jr. and Mae C. Jemison; activists, intellectuals, authors, and artists like Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, James Baldwin, Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and Gwendolyn Brooks just to name a few of the countless number of well-known and unsung heroes whose contributions have helped our nation become a more perfect union.

The history of the United States has been marked by the great contributions of African American activists, leaders, writers, and artists.

As a member of Congress, I know that I stand on the shoulders of giants whose struggles and triumphs made it possible for me to stand here today and continue the fight for equality, justice, and progress for all, regardless of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation.

The greatest of these giants to me are Mrs. Ivalita “Ivy” Jackson, a vocational nurse, and Mr. Ezra A. Jackson, one of the first African Americans to succeed in the comic book publishing business.

They were my beloved parents and they taught me the value of education, hard work, discipline, perseverance, and caring for others.

And I am continually inspired by Dr. Elwyn Lee, my husband and the first tenured African American law professor at the University of Houston.

Mr. Speaker, I particularly wish to acknowledge the contributions of African American veterans in defending from foreign aggressors and who by their courageous examples helped transform our nation from a segregated society to a nation committed to the never ending challenge of perfecting our union.

A few years ago about this time, I was honored to join my colleagues, Congressman JOHN LEWIS and Congressman CHARLES RANGEL, a Korean War veteran, in paying tribute to surviving members of the Tuskegee Airmen and the 555th Parachute Infantry, the famed “Triple Nickels” at a moving ceremony sponsored by the U.S. Army commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

The success of the Tuskegee Airmen in escorting bombers during World War II—achieving one of the lowest loss records of all the escort fighter groups, and being in constant demand for their services by the allied bomber units—is a record unmatched by any other fighter group.

So impressive and astounding were the feats of the Tuskegee Airmen that in 1948, it helped persuade President Harry Truman to issue his famous Executive Order No. 9981, which directed equality of treatment and opportunity in all of the United States Armed Forces and led to the end of racial segregation in the U.S. military forces.

It is a source of enormous and enduring pride that my father-in-law, Phillip Ferguson Lee, was one of the Tuskegee Airmen.

Clearly, what began as an experiment to determine whether “colored” soldiers were capable of operating expensive and complex combat aircraft ended as an unqualified success

based on the experience of the Tuskegee Airmen, whose record included 261 aircraft destroyed, 148 aircraft damaged, 15,553 combat sorties and 1,578 missions over Italy and North Africa.

They also destroyed or damaged over 950 units of ground transportation and escorted more than 200 bombing missions. They proved that “the antidote to racism is excellence in performance,” as retired Lt. Col. Herbert Carter once remarked.

Mr. Speaker, Black History Month is also a time to remember many pioneering women like U.S. Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm; activists Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks; astronaut Mae C. Jemison; mathematicians like Katherine G. Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson; authors Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and Gwendolyn Brooks; all of whom have each in their own way, whether through courageous activism, cultural or intellectual contributions, or artistic creativity, forged social and political change, and forever changed our great Nation for the better.

It is also fitting, Mr. Speaker, that in addition to those national leaders whose contributions have made our nation better, we honor also those who have and are making a difference in their local communities.

In my home city of Houston, there are numerous great men and women. They are great because they have heeded the counsel of Dr. King who said:

“Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.”

By that measure, I wish to pay tribute to some of the great men and women of Houston:

1. Rev. F.N. Williams, Sr.
2. Rev. Dr. S.J. Gilbert, Sr.
3. Rev. Crawford W. Kimble
4. Rev. Eldridge Stanley Branch
5. Rev. William A. Lawson
6. Rev. Johnnie Jeffery “J.J.” Robeson
7. Mr. John Brand
8. Ms. Ruby Moseley
9. Ms. Dorothy Hubbard
10. Ms. Doris Hubbard
11. Ms. Willie Bell Boone
12. Ms. Holly HogoBrooks
13. Mr. Deloyd Parker
14. Ms. Lenora “Doll” Carter

As we celebrate Black History Month, let us pay tribute to those who have come before us, and pay forward to future generations by addressing what is the number one issue for African American families, and all American families today: preserving the American promise of economic opportunity for all.

Our immediate focus must be job creation, and enacting legislation that will foster and lay the foundation for today’s and tomorrow’s generation of groundbreaking activists, leaders, scientists, writers and artists to continue contributing to the greatness of America.

We must continue to preserve the American Dream for all.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here in celebration of the heroic and historic acts of African Americans and their indispensable contributions to this great Nation.

It is through our work in creating possibilities for today and future generations that we best honor the accomplishments and legacy of our predecessors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2017

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I missed roll call no. 77 on February 2, 2017 due to an unscheduled constituent meeting off the House Floor that unexpectedly ran long. Had I been present for the roll call, I would have voted “NO”.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RETURN TO PRUDENT BANKING ACT

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2017

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the nine-year anniversary of the greatest financial crisis in a generation. This economic disaster nearly caused the destruction of our country’s entire financial infrastructure and led to what we call now the Great Recession.

However, during the last nine years Wall Street Banks have succeeded and in the process have caused the financial failure of millions of Americans. JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, Citigroup, Wells Fargo, Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley have all reported record profits during the recession. Wall Street in the last nine years has regained ALL of its pre-crisis wealth with interest, while Main Street has yet to see a real recovery.

During the 1990’s, Wall Street’s biggest banks and speculation houses concocted a fraudulent and greedy scheme to create false money. Then, in 2008, their crime exploded, nearly destroying capitalism. Their recklessness was so extreme it wiped out the net worth of 44 percent of Hispanic American households, 33 percent of African American households, and 11 percent of Caucasian households, respectively.

This was a taking of historic dimension never reimbursed to this day. It sucked out the wealth from millions of American families. It’s time for Congress to ensure that these failures in our banking system are never repeated.

That is why I have reintroduced the Return to Prudent Banking Act. To build on the momentum and the movement to reinstate Glass-Steagall.

Since last summer, fifteen state legislatures introduced resolutions calling for Congress to reinstate Glass Steagall. Democrats and Republicans have memorialized support for Glass-Steagall in their respective political platforms. Even President Trump has declared his support for a new Glass-Steagall law and we are obligated to work with him to do just that.

I was proud to join with 57 members of the House who several years ago voted against the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, the bill that overturned Glass Steagall. As the anti-regulation movement won the day, that law was a clear signal that Wall Street was in charge. Banks grew larger and riskier, and American taxpayers were given the bill when the deregulated financial sector fell apart.

This is a reality that has sunk its teeth deep into the flesh of our Republic, influencing more and more who is elevated to office.

Mr. Speaker, these banks have to be defanged. Restoring Glass Steagall is a first step among other items, like a campaign finance reform, better trade deals, and better deals for American workers.

TRIBUTE TO JUDY HOOPES

HON. LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2017

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Judith H. Hoopes, of Greenville, Delaware, a lifelong Delawarean and an invaluable member of our community.

A 1960 graduate of Duke University, her college major in history led to her long-time involvement with the Delaware Historical Society. She was involved in many state arts organizations, including her appointment as Chair of the Delaware State Arts Council by then-Governor Pete duPont. Dedicated to her community, Judy was a valuable asset to the numerous non-profits in Delaware she lent her support. She was a founding board member and past Chair of the Delaware Community Foundation, was the first woman to Chair the YMCA board, a founder of the Fund for Women, and a longtime Woodlawn Trustee. For these and many other contributions Judy received the Lifetime Achievement in Philanthropy Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Judy and her late husband Robert were married for 53 years. Their family was the focus of their lives, and their wonderful children and grandchildren are a testament to their good work. I am honored to call their daughter, Stephanie, and son, Robert Jr., friends. Their commitment to community and love of Delaware will surely carry on their mother’s spirit. My sympathy goes out to Stephanie, Robert and his wife Hilary, Judy’s five grandchildren James, Elizabeth, Penelope, Riter, and Charlotte, as well as their extended family and Judy’s many friends.

We are deeply saddened by the loss of Judy, and I want to express my deep gratitude for her dedication and service to her community, and the state of Delaware.

HONORING MICHAEL MINASIAN

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2017

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and the passing of a special person from Montebello, California. Mr. Michael Minasian was an irreplaceable member of the Armenian-American community, who was born to survivors of the Armenian genocide in 1931. Mr. Minasian’s success wasn’t handed to him; for five years he and his family lived in a camp for displaced persons after World War II. When Mr. Minasian and his family immigrated to the United States, he attended night school to learn English while helping his parents support the family.

From 1953 to 1955, Mr. Minasian served in the U.S. Armed Forces in West Germany, and

became a citizen in 1954. He returned to the Los Angeles area where he produced the bilingual “Armenian Radio Hour” and put his entrepreneurial spirit to work, first through owning the International Music Center in East Los Angeles, and later by building a successful insurance agency. More recently, Mr. Minasian reinvented himself as a land developer, building tracts of single family homes. Through his businesses, Mr. Minasian helped develop the City of Montebello and much of Eastern Los Angeles County bears his mark.

Mr. Minasian’s contributions to the economy of our community were rivaled only by his civic leadership. A champion of the Armenian-American community, he spearheaded efforts to build the Armenian Genocide Martyrs Monument, which towers over Montebello’s Bicknell Park. As founder of the Armenian Assembly, he paid his success forward to young Armenians by creating a Washington, DC internship placement program. Mr. Minasian has even made a difference right here in the United States Congress, where he successfully led the fight for passage of Armenian-genocide resolutions in 1975, 1984, and 1985.

Countless organizations in Montebello have benefitted from Mr. Minasian’s leadership. He served as President of the Montebello Junior Chamber of Commerce and Chairman of the Montebello Citizens Advisory Committee on Park Planning and Design. He has also served on the boards of directors of the Montebello Chamber of Commerce and the Armenian Educational Foundation. His contributions to the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, the Montebello American Legion, and as Human Services Commissioner for the City of Montebello will not be forgotten.

Mr. Minasian’s life embodies the spirit of our hardworking immigrant community. His legacy will serve as a shining example, not only to the Armenian-American community but for all future generations, of the difference that one man or woman can make in his or her community. I hope my colleagues will join me in sending my condolences to his widow, Lydia, and their four children and six grandchildren.

IN RECOGNITION OF RON RUBIN

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2017

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ron Rubin on being an honoree at the National Museum of American Jewish History’s Only in America Gala. This honor seeks to recognize those individuals who have greatly helped in the development of the Museum and for service to the business, cultural, and philanthropic communities. His contributions to our community have been recognized by many, and I am grateful for his work for the people of Philadelphia.

Ron’s career began in the 1950s when he joined his father’s small real estate firm. Throughout his career, Ron has worked to guide growth for major development in office buildings, retail centers, and malls up and down the East Coast. Ron’s work helped make the Rubin Organization one of the largest real estate companies in the United States. After the Rubin Organization was acquired by the Pennsylvania Real Estate Investment Trust (PREIT), Ron served as CEO