

many years Luke has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Luke has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Luke Andrew Moyes for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. IRMA MITCHELL WORKS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2017

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I extend my sincere congratulations to Golden Soror Irma Mitchell Works of the Gamma Tau Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. for fifty years of service to this great sisterhood. A reception will be held in her honor on Sunday, November 12, 2017 at the Green Island Country Club in Columbus, Georgia.

A native of Pittsview, Alabama, Irma Jean Mitchell was born to the late Jessie and Bertha Williams, as the thirteenth of fourteen children. She was a product of the Russell County School System and graduated from Glenville High School. After graduation, she attended Alabama A&M College (University), where she obtained her bachelor's degree in Vocational Home Economics. It was here that she discovered her calling to become a member of one of the finest reflections of womanhood, and on April 22, 1967, she was initiated into the Gamma Mu Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. She also received masters degrees from the University of Georgia and Georgia State University, and an Educational Specialist Certificate in Administration and Supervision from Troy State University.

Mrs. Works has been a member of Benevolent Grove Missionary Baptist Church for fifty-nine years and currently serves as a Sunday School teacher, an adult choir member, a mentor for women of all ages, and a sponsor for the church's mini clothing bank.

Former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm once said, "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." Irma has continued her service within the sorority and throughout the community by joining Gamma Tau Omega Chapter and serving on committees such as: AKA Connections, Fundraising, Budget, the Pink and Green Breakfast, and serving two-terms as the founding Vice President of SISTERS, Incorporated's Board of Directors, which is the foundation of Gamma Tau Omega Chapter. She also transitioned to the Advisory Board and is presently serving a second term on the Board of Directors. She has received numerous awards and commendations from Alpha Kappa Alpha, Incorporated including 2000 Woman of Achievement; Women Helping Women; Outstanding Services to Youth; Finer Womanhood; Outstanding Community Service and Distinguished Woman; she also received recognition from the Muscogee Rotary Club; Phi Delta Kappa Professional Education Fraternity;

Network for Professionals and Executives; National Education Association; Muscogee Education Association and Georgia Association of Educational Leaders among others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to an outstanding citizen and woman of faith, Mrs. Irma Mitchell Works, as she is honored for her fifty years of dedicated service to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and her community.

HONORING LAWRENCE BACA

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2017

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lawrence Baca, a local artist in Santa Fe, for his outstanding work. Lawrence is well known for his beautiful silver creations and his award winning jewelry. He pulls from historic and cultural roots when making the jewelry.

Born and raised in Santa Fe, Lawrence is inspired by the strong Native American and Hispanic cultures that run deep in our state. He celebrates long-lasting traditions and keeps history alive by creating jewelry that uses metals and stones that were once used by our ancestors in New Mexico.

Collectors and fans from all over the world travel to the Spanish Market in Santa Fe to buy jewelry from Lawrence and other local artists. In 2015, he was awarded the Master's Award for Lifetime Achievement at the Spanish Market and Museum of Spanish Colonial Art.

The Spanish Colonial art features authentic artistic traditions which can be traced back over 400 years. Skilled artists, like Lawrence, create breathtaking expressions of a living tradition, and many of them count their art as their only source of income.

My hope is that Lawrence will continue to use his talent to honor the Spanish and Native American history in New Mexico, and will inspire future artists to do the same.

HONORING JAMES STUBBERS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize James Stubbers. James is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 10, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

James has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years James has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, James has become a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow and earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-o-Say. James has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. James designed, and co-ordinated the construction of two computer ta-

bles and a white board for the Valley Park Elementary School in Leawood, Kansas.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending James Stubbers for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2017

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to make votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 569, YEA on Roll Call No. 570, and YEA on Roll Call No. 571.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Fairfax County Health Department. Through a century of continuous service the department has distinguished itself as a national leader and a model public health department working to protect, promote and improve the quality of life for all its residents.

The origins of the Fairfax County Health Department can be traced back to April 1917, when the county launched a campaign for better health in the very same week that the United States would enter World War I. When the first public health physician and his successor were sent off to war, it left only one public health nurse to provide services for the entire county. Shortly after war's end the staff consisted of a full time health officer, one full time sanitation officer, one full time nurse and a part-time clerk, with funding provided by the Virginia State Health Department, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, the County Chapter of the Red Cross, the Tuberculosis Association, and donations from private citizens.

In the early years, the Health Department was primarily concerned with the spread of infectious diseases like diphtheria, smallpox, tuberculosis and typhoid fever. With better sanitation, education, and immunization practices, many of these threats began to wane and the department's services began to expand to accommodate the county's growing population.

With more facilities and staff, the department was able to offer maternal and child health clinics, home health care, speech and hearing, dental, and school health services. At the same time, a systematic program of environmental health was developed to include sewage disposal, protection of water supplies, fly and mosquito control, and general cleanliness of dwellings, tourist places and food establishments.

Due to its long history of financial and leadership support for public health, in 1995 Fairfax County sought and was granted the authority to operate its own health department by

an act of the Virginia General Assembly. Since that change in legislative authority more than 20 years ago, the Fairfax County Health Department has become more efficient, effective, and responsive.

Throughout its history, the Health Department has been a leader in the prevention and control of communicable diseases. During the polio epidemic of the 1950s, Fairfax County participated in the Salk vaccine trials and became the first county in the United States to provide polio vaccine to its grade school children. In 1960s, it was the first department in the nation to participate in a mass measles vaccination trial program. And in 1989, when there was an outbreak of Ebola virus in monkeys at a laboratory in Reston, Virginia—an event dramatized in Richard Preston's book "The Hot Zone"—Fairfax County Health Department was once again on the front lines of an emerging disease threat.

While the emphasis on communicable disease control and prevention has not changed, the Health Department has dedicated more of its resources to population-based health services that address disparities within its increasingly diverse community. The Health Department's Adult Day Health Care, Community Health Care Network, Skin Deep Tattoo Removal Program, HIV case management program, and Homeless Health Care program have been a model for other departments in Virginia and around the country. Research on newer and better methods of onsite sewage disposal have often originated in Fairfax County. The department's laboratory is the largest local public health laboratory in the Commonwealth, performing more than 200,000 scientific tests annually.

Since the terrorist acts of September 11, 2001, the Health Department has assumed a first responder role with significant responsibility for a wide range of disaster planning and response activities. In response to lessons learned from the anthrax crisis, the Health Department organized a Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) unit, a cadre of trained volunteers, to augment surge capacity during public health emergencies. In the years since, the Health Department has activated its Incident Management Team and the MRC in response to natural disasters such as floods and hurricanes, H1N1 influenza pandemic, Ebola virus, Zika virus and other outbreak investigations.

The Fairfax County Health Department has achieved and sustained a well-earned reputation for excellence due in part to the dedication and compassion of its well-trained workforce, the quality and innovation of its programs and services, and the commitment of its leadership to continuous quality improvement. That commitment was demonstrated again in 2016 when the department achieved national accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the Fairfax County Health Department for a century of protecting, promoting and improving the health and quality of life for all in Fairfax County. Their selfless efforts, made on behalf of all citizens of our community are truly worthy of our highest praise.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PEDRO RAMÍREZ DAVIS

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2017

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you on this day to recognize Mr. Pedro Ramirez Davis for his dedication to organized labor and the progressive political community in Tucson, Arizona and Pima County. Regrettably, he passed away on October 9, 2017 after dedicating over forty years of service to his fellow man. He was a life-long member of the Laborers' International Union Local No. 479 and the Teamsters local in Tucson.

Pedro R. Davis exemplified the highest ideals of the labor movement. He worked ardently to further the common goals of the working man to earn better wages, safer working conditions, the right to collective bargaining and the ability to call for a strike when the circumstances warranted it. He fought for benefits and financial aid for workers who were injured or retired.

Pedro understood the importance of union organizing as a way of empowering people and changing lives. He understood the need to be proactive in advocating policies and legislation to bring about necessary change. He was a true supporter of the Democratic Party because he believed it championed the interest of the working class. He supported local leaders and candidates he believed advocated for the struggles of the lower and middle classes. He worked tirelessly for those candidates, going door-to-door, encouraging folks to join the cause, putting up signs, collecting signatures, attending rallies and pitching in wherever help was needed.

Pedro was born in Nogales, Sonora Mexico in 1928. His parents struggled hard to support their family of twelve children. At an early age, Pedro learned the value of hard work when he had to do his part to help provide for his younger siblings. He would often share stories of his family all huddled around a single kerosene burner and a wood-burning stove trying to keep out the chill of the frigid winters in their hillside Nogales home. In his household, there were times when there was not enough food, blankets and warm beds.

His father's work often took him away from home and that would leave Pedro and his brother Samuel to step up, as the men of the house, to provide for the family in their fathers absence. This, no doubt, contributed to Pedro's kind and generous nature throughout his life. On one occasion, a fine gentleman wrote a letter to the editor about a Good Samaritan, who carried him across a flooded street refused to provide his name and rejected any monetary compensation for the rescue. The Good Samaritan was Pedro.

At the age of 18, along with his peers, Pedro was drafted into military service. After completing his duty, like his father and grandfather before him, he worked as a carpenter. He moved to California to work for some time and upon his return to Nogales he met Enedina Luque. He fell in love with Enedina, and married her soon thereafter. They moved to Tucson in 1950 and Pedro began working in construction.

Throughout the years, his construction job led him to work on many of the major indus-

trial projects that transformed Tucson including the missile silos and copper mines in the surrounding the area. He joined Tucson's Local No. 479 of the International Laborers' Union and the local Teamsters' Union in their formative years and remained actively involved in their collective bargaining efforts throughout his working life.

He took part in strikes against unfair labor practices when it became necessary, which was always a difficult thing, since he was unable to collect a wage for his family during those walkouts. Enedina always supported his decisions because they both saw it as a way for construction workers to obtain decent wages, health benefits, safe working conditions and retirement pensions. Pedro stood firm and worked extremely hard to make change possible for labor workers. His efforts were recognized by the leaders he worked to get elected which includes successful candidates such as: President Bill Clinton, Congressman Ed Pastor and myself, among others. Pedro would often receive invitations to dinners and other special events, to the surprise of many, including his family. Those were proud moments for him, indeed.

Pedro and Enedina raised six children and he always impressed upon them the value of an education. He felt that an education was the best job security anyone could hope to have. Even though he only had a sixth-grade education himself, Pedro was a learned man, always reading newspapers and magazines in both English and Spanish. He could engage in informed discussions on current events around the world. He knew about world leaders as well as his local representatives and had a profound interest in politics at home and abroad. Pedro and Enedina voted without fail as soon as they became naturalized United States citizens. He also instilled in his children and grandchildren the importance of registering to vote and engaged them in discussions on the important issues of the day.

In the early 80's, Pedro was asked to assist in the remodeling of an office building that had been made available to a candidate as the campaign headquarters. He was so inspired by the candidate that soon afterwards, he was out collecting signatures and walking door-to-door registering people to vote. He campaigned tirelessly for human rights and for candidates he respected. Pedro's car was always full of campaign signs and handouts. He eagerly shared his campaign experiences with his family. Pedro loved his country of origin, but he was proud to be an American. He loved and respected what this country stood for and wanted to make it better for the present and future generations.

When Enedina passed away in 2007, Pedro seemed to have lost a skip in his step. He found comfort by staying active in the political sphere and through his love for guitar. He was a self-taught guitarist and amassed a collection of Mexican classic songbooks. After retiring from construction, Pedro kept himself busy working as a school crossing guard for the Tucson Unified School District, which is a job that he took very seriously. The safety of the schoolchildren made him happy and he always had a supply of Jolly Ranchers to pass out to them. One of his greatest joys came when he received a large bundle of handmade birthday cards from the kids at Safford Primary School. The students at the school made him feel proud and happy.