

work hard, have a family, pursue his passions and buy a home for his mother. He understood that in America, hard work could yield all of those things and began his career as a shipping clerk. He had hoped this job would allow him to marry his fiancé and earn enough money to make a down payment on a home for his mother. Between he and his brother's pay, they soon put a down payment on a house for their mother, but Primitivo wanted to earn his citizenship before marrying his bride-to-be.

There was nothing more that Primitivo wanted than to become an American Citizen, so he and his brother enrolled in English classes at Westport High School to meet the necessary qualifications for citizenship. It was in this class that Primitivo and his brother, Alfredo, would meet someone who would change their life forever, Mrs. Margaret Kindermann (now Margaret Kelso).

Fifty years ago, on November 15, 1967, Primitivo Garcia, and his brother Alfredo Garcia walked out of their night English class and heard a scream. They both realized that a woman was being accosted outside of their school and as Mrs. Kindermann recalled, Primitivo and Alfredo were not "going to let this happen." That night, both Garcia brothers would save their English teacher, Mrs. Kindermann, from impending doom. After rushing to their teacher's aide, the Garcia brothers immediately fought off the attackers, but one of the attackers drew a gun and shot Primitivo.

As Mrs. Kindermann recalls, she feared for her life and the life of her 5-month-old, unborn child. Primitivo's and Alfredo's bravery saved two lives that night, but tragically, Primitivo succumbed to his wounds three days later.

Primitivo Garcia would become the first local, Hispanic hero in Kansas City because of his benevolent act of sacrifice for his teacher and her unborn child. Former Missouri Governor Warren Hearnes declared Primitivo an honorary citizen of the state as well as declared December 1st to be Primitivo Garcia Day in Kansas City. Parks would later be named in honor of Primitivo's story, memorials dedicated to his legacy, but in 1992, Joe Arce, a local television reporter, did a two-part feature story that continued Primitivo's story.

It was this story that sparked community support within the Historic Westside neighborhood to urge the Kansas City, MO School Board to name their newly constructed West Magnet School as the Primitivo Garcia World Language School. A year after Mr. Arce's story, the school was named in Primitivo's honor.

It is through the actions of Alfredo and the sacrifice of his brother, Primitivo, that should remind us of our country's legacy of immigrant sacrifice in pursuit of the American Dream. Primitivo simply stood up for what he knew to be right, helping the helpless in their time of need. Primitivo's spirit and legacy will live on through our community's eternal willingness to commemorate this valiant act and I am honored to share his story with you today.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing our heartfelt appreciation to Primitivo Garcia's family. I urge my colleagues to please join me in conveying our gratitude to his family and community for sharing this great man with us, and to allow us to honor his legacy. He is, and will forever be, an inspiration to current and future generations.

TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE BISHOP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 16, 2017

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, you see, tax reform is about giving hardworking Americans—of all walks of life—the confidence they need to make their dreams a reality.

So the question that needs to be asked is whether or not the current tax code—and all of its targeted credits—really increases people's paychecks. . . . Does it treat people fairly? Does it put American workers first? What about fostering economic growth, does it help to create more good-paying jobs?

Michigan is a great case study.

You see, I'm from the Motor City, where we're known for our blue collar work ethic. Our families come from humble beginnings. They get up every morning and go to work to make ends meet, and to build a better future for their kids. And we've persevered through some of the most serious economic death spirals. Take 2008, for example.

At that time, I was Senate Majority Leader in Michigan under the last administration, overseeing the only Republican branch of government. I saw firsthand how that administration pursued one targeted tax credits after another that favored one industry over the other. It was the classic example of the government picking winners and losers—and, as expected, it failed miserably.

As we see at the federal level today, in Michigan many of these targeted tax benefits were paid for by everyone else: in the form of tax increases. And not only did it fail to attract growth in emerging sectors as they hoped, but it caused our economy to tailspin.

Michigan quickly became the only state in the country experiencing zero economic growth. Per capita income went from one of the highest, to one of the lowest in a matter of just a few years.

By 2009, unemployment hit nearly 15 percent. (Neighboring states with more hospitable environments for job growth attracted our families and neighbors).

More than 800,000 people left our state. Just think about that. . . . We were the only state to lose population—and we would have lost even more had people been able to sell their homes.

But as the Senate Majority Leader of the only Republican branch of government, we didn't just say "no" to the government's failed policies, we offered solutions and loaded up the pipeline with legislation to help the newly-elected Republican legislature and Governor Rick Snyder get to work on day one.

What did we do? Exactly what we're doing here today: tax reform.

While balancing budgets, we found ways to lower rates on individuals. Reduced baseline rates for job creators, and eliminated the credits that favored certain industries over others. We created an environment that would grow the economy, and help families get ahead.

And sure enough, just two months after these reforms, job growth turned positive again in Michigan.

In 2017, Michigan is now a top 10 pro-business state, ranked 12th among all states for

overall business tax climate. Unemployment in Livingston County, in my district, is at 3.3 percent as of this September. And the comeback continues.

Detroit is re-emerging again as an economic powerhouse. The streets are alive with entrepreneurs and young people, who live downtown. The future looks great for the Comeback City.

You see, the moral of the story is that tax policy matters.

Getting tax reform done right means delivering real relief. I've seen it work in Michigan, and I know we can do it at a national level. It's not hard. It's about allowing people to keep more of what is rightfully theirs. It's about freeing up more capital to create more jobs, increase wages, and compete at a global level. This is how you grow an economy from the ground up.

Let's vote for our constituents today—do it for that middle-income family of four, or the single mother of three—and pass this bill today. All of us have an obligation to simplify the tax code for every American—with lower rates—so it's easier for hardworking people to file their taxes and have the peace of mind they deserve.

It's been 31 years, and the relief can't come soon enough.

PROCLAMATION FOR DAISAKU AND KANEKO IKEDA

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD the following proclamation for Daisaku and Kaneko Ikeda.

Whereas, August 24, 1947 is the day a young Daisaku Ikeda joined the Soka Gakkai and began his unerring pursuit of global peace with his revered teacher Josei Toda, and in these succeeding 70 years has created a global, grass-roots network of 12 million peace building citizens in 192 countries and territories, conducted peace building citizen-diplomacy with world leaders during the Cold War, authored hundreds of books providing hope and encouragement, conducted dialogues on substantive issues of the day with thousands of leaders around the world, submitted annual peace proposals to the United Nations for 35 years, and established numerous research institutes aimed at conflict resolution and intercultural dialogue and understanding; and

Whereas, Dr. Daisaku Ikeda, in his roles as philosopher, educator, peace-builder and author, has dedicated his life to constructing bridges of understanding between people of different nations and cultures, and between diverse philosophical and faith traditions, and personified this philosophy in his own activities as a firm advocate for dialogue as the basis for resolving conflicts and building peace; and

Whereas, Dr. Ikeda has established the Soka education schools around the world, including Soka University of America (SUA) in Orange County, California, to promote humanistic education that stimulates and encourages each student's unique potential for learning, and empowers their lifelong growth and development toward contributive living and peace-building; and

Whereas, Kaneko Ikeda's partnership has been foundationally integral to her exceptionally capable husband's accomplishments over these seven decades, serving as confidant, scheduler, doctor, nurse, advisor and, most importantly, as a loving wife; and

Whereas, Kaneko Ikeda is an outstanding scholar with honorary degrees from more than 20 academic institutions around the world, a peace activist with honors from more than 25 international cultural institutions, and has received more than 75 honorary citizenships worldwide and is a model of inspiration for millions of women; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the efforts of Daisaku and Kaneko Ikeda, in firm recognition of their lifetime efforts toward enabling each and every individual to live courageous and contributive lives as the means to foster a harmonious and peaceful society;

Now therefore I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim August 24, 2017 as Daisaku and Kaneko Ikeda Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 24th day of August, 2017.

HONORING SYMRA BRANDON

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to honor a dear friend and wonderful public servant in the Yonkers community, Symra Brandon, who this year is being honored by the Luther V. Garrison Sr. Masonic Foundation Inc. as their 2017 Woman of the Year. I have known Symra for many years and cannot think of a more deserving honoree.

Symra was born in New York City, and raised in Yonkers, New York. She graduated from the same high school I did, Evander Childs High School in the Bronx, and went on to receive a degree in Sociology at Morgan State College, followed by a Master's of Social Work degree from Hunter College School of Social Work and in Public Administration from Pace University.

Throughout her distinguished professional career, Symra was employed by the Westchester County Department of Social Services, Cornell University's Family Life Development Center, UAW/General Motors Skills Transition Center, the Westchester County Youth Bureau, where she served as Acting Director for the Youth Bureau, and the Office of Affirmative Action/EEO and Office for the Disabled. She retired from Westchester County in 2006 from the position of Assistant to Westchester County Executive Andrew J. Spano/Director of the Office of African American Affairs.

Symra was also a dedicated public servant, serving six terms as a Yonkers City Council Member for the First District where she was the first African American Woman to serve in the Council. During her twelve year tenure, Symra worked diligently on behalf of her constituents by sponsoring important legislation including mandating carbon monoxide detectors, landlord payment of Emergency Tenant Protection act fees, Senior Citizen, Veteran and Gold Star Parent property tax exemptions, and consistently supported development on

the Yonkers Waterfront in addition to the creation of jobs and contracts for local residents on major projects throughout the City. As a community leader, Symra was a conscientious advocate for improving the quality of life for residents in her district, especially to children and the elderly.

Today, Symra continues to serve the community as a role model and through her participation on many boards and organizations including Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Terrace City Chapter No. 26, Black Democrats of Westchester, the NAACP, National Council of Negro Women and The Westchester Black Women's Political Caucus.

Symra has always been an amazing partner to me in Yonkers, and an even better friend. It is my privilege to honor and congratulate her here today.

TRIBUTE TO LES CLARK

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague Congressman DAVID VALADAO, to recognize and pay tribute to Les Clark on his retirement this month as Executive Vice President of the Independent Oil Producers' Agency (IOPA) after 37 years of dedicated service to the "mom and pop" oil producers in Kern County.

Les began his career in the very heart of California's Central Valley. After graduating from Taft High, he played football for Taft College and later baseball at California State University, Fresno. Shortly after leaving for school in Fresno, Les found himself back in the Kern oil patch, where he was first introduced to the oil business that he would go on to leave an incredible impact upon. Les had taken drafting classes at Taft College and was subsequently recommended by the school when Belridge Oil Company, in need of draftsmen, offered him a position where he gained a wealth of technical knowledge and hands-on experience.

With this experience and a well-established reputation as a down-to-earth, no-nonsense communicator, Les became the Executive Vice President of IOPA. In this position, he worked not only to move IOPA members' crude oil to refineries across the state, or as he would say to the "majors," but he also doggedly and passionately pursued their public policy interests at the Federal, state and local levels of government—in our state, that's no easy task. With a myriad of Federal regulations layered on top of byzantine state regulations that oil producers come up against daily, Les quickly became a regulatory expert learning complex issues and government procedures to advocate for his members.

One just has to walk into Les' office and see the stacks of paper-filled boxes and files piled on his desk—not to mention the giant model wooden oil derrick—to recognize his wealth of knowledge accumulated over a lifetime of dedicated service to the Kern oil patch. Sitting in those old wooden chairs across from his desk as we discussed the important issues facing Kern County's small oil producers, Les knew where every file was while answering his flip phone that rang nearly constantly to close a deal or put out a fire for one of his members.

In addition to his work for IOPA, Les is an active member of the Bakersfield and Kern County communities. Whether it was serving as a Taft Union High School Trustee to being a president of the Kern County Fair or the Taft Chamber of Commerce to chairing the West Side Hospital Foundation to being a board member of the Fresno State Alumni Association or Cal State Bakersfield Foundation, in addition to the many state and local advisory boards he participated on, he always made sure to focus on his family.

Les founded the Ponytail Softball League enabling the girls of Taft—including his daughters—to learn and enjoy softball. He is also in the Little League Hall of Fame for his service in coaching Taft little league teams, something he did for more than 30 years. Les coached baseball for Taft College and was a football referee for over 20 years. Many people may not know, but Les played competitive fast-pitch softball and semi-pro baseball for the Kern County League.

From my time working for former Congressman Bill Thomas, to when I served in the California State Assembly and now in the United States House of Representatives, I have always sought and appreciated Les' counsel, wisdom, and friendship. His larger-than-life personality and dry wit always made our conversations engaging and memorable. He always cut right to the crux of an issue and had a clear vision of where he wanted things to go. And, Les never shied away from telling me when he thought I was wrong or why some new Federal or state regulation was hurting his members, all the while leaning back in his chair, arms folded in front of his chest.

As Les enters this new chapter of his life, I'm sure he's looking forward to spending more time with his family, including his wife of 52 years, June, two daughters, Tessa and Kerrie, son "Little Les," ten grandchildren, Arizona, Ayana, Cash, Darius, Easton, Keelan, Logun, Sierra, Tanisha, and Willow, and great granddaughter, Zaria.

Les exemplifies how one can serve their community and become a living legend through that service—everyone in Bakersfield and the Taft community knows him and appreciates his passion and leadership for our region. We all wish him the best in his retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO PERMIT COMMERCIAL FILMING AND PHOTOGRAPHY ON THE GROUNDS OF THE U.S. CAPITOL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill to permit commercial filming and photography on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol, east of Union Square, the only area where such filming is currently authorized. This bill would permit commercial filming and photography outside of the Capitol and congressional office buildings by permit, so long as both the House and Senate are not in session. In today's world, where many societies are facing upheavals, our country should be the first to encourage commercial filming and photography of the Capitol, which symbolizes U.S.