

Joan Baez, Jimi Hendrix, and a young New Jerseyan named Bruce Springsteen receiving his first guitar from his mother in 1964, the artists from the 1960s shaped the music landscape forever.

In the 1960s, a young, outspoken and politically active generation often told their stories through music and art. As a young person during this era, I can attest to the importance of the messages conveyed by musicians about contemporary society and their unwavering belief in building a better America for future generations.

The State of New Jersey can bestow no higher honor on one of our citizens than induction into our Hall of Fame and I congratulate Tommy James, who helped to influence generations of musicians.

Mr. Speaker, with an award-winning music career spanning over three decades and countless contributions to our State and its citizens, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Tommy James to his induction to the New Jersey Hall of Fame.

**THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIRNESS FOR BREASTFEEDING MOTHERS ACT OF 2017**

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2017

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Fairness for Breastfeeding Mothers Act of 2017, a bill that would require buildings that are either federally owned or leased to provide designated private and hygienic lactation spaces for nursing mothers. The bill was included in the Public Buildings Reform and Savings Act of 2016, which passed the House last Congress. For years, federal agencies such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have encouraged breastfeeding. The benefits are so great that federal law now requires employers to provide a designated, non-bathroom space for employees to pump breastmilk for their newborns, ensuring that new mothers would be able to continue this essential practice even after returning to work. My bill would extend this requirement to include not just employees, but visitors and guests to federal facilities across the nation.

In Washington, D.C. alone, millions of tourists visit federal sites, such as the Lincoln Memorial. Increasingly, families understand the unique benefits of breastfeeding, and visitors to these buildings who have newborns and babies should have a private space to breastfeed or pump. The benefits of breastfeeding are well-documented. Breastmilk contains antibodies and hormones that boost babies' immune systems, and studies have shown lower risks of asthma, diabetes, respiratory infections and other diseases among breastfed babies. Moreover, breastfeeding also has benefits for nursing mothers, who, research has shown, have lower risks of diabetes and certain forms of cancer. Given the significant public health benefits of breastfeeding for both mother and baby, already recognized in federal policy, my bill is a logical next step to ensure visitors to federal sites have access to clean, hygienic, and private spaces to nurse or pump.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, which would provide access to designated lactation rooms for guests to federally owned or leased buildings.

**OPPOSITION TO H.J. RES. 43 AND H.J. RES. 69**

**HON. KAREN BASS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2017

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, in order to attend a previously scheduled event I had to return to California; however, if I had been present today, I would have continued to voice my strenuous objects to the use of the Congressional Review Act to invalidate a seemingly endless number of agency rules. Today, I would express my opposition to and voted against H.J. Res. 43 and H.J. Res. 69. Use of the Congressional Review Act in the month of February to eliminate agency regulations thereby barring their return in substantially the same form as in some instances negated years of work on the part of agency officials, stakeholders, advocates, and the public. H.J. Res. 43 represents another vehicle to prevent families from having legitimate access in every state to the Title X program, which has been in effect for over 40 years.

Title X of the Public Health Services Act is the only dedicated source of federal funding for family planning. It provides grants to both nonprofit and public entities that, in turn, provide a wide range of both preventative and family planning services. These clinics have provided service to over 4 million men, women and children. The services include preconception health services, contraceptive care as well as breast and cervical cancer screenings and prevention. H.J. Res. 43 would prevent the implementation of a final rule by the Department of Health and Human Services that would have ensured that these patients continued to have access to all qualified Title X providers.

At a time when there has been a call to repeal the Affordable Care Act, which will result in 20 million Americans losing insurance, and negatively impact the benefits currently received by those with insurance and no viable replacement option being put forward. Our efforts should be spent addressing this issue. Instead, we are voting on a measure that will only serve to decrease access to health services that impact the long term health needs of families.

As for H.J. Res. 69, it represents yet another effort to use the Congressional Review Act to undermine the efforts of stakeholders, advocates, and agencies to address an issue. The promulgation of the rule by the Fish and Wild Life Services addresses Non-Subsistence Take of Wildlife, and Public Participation and Closure Procedures. In effect the rule is designed to limit state sponsored and recreational killing of species like grizzly bears and gray wolves unless there is full compliance with existing federal law as well as compliance with the purposes of the refuge. At this time those who have opposed this rule have not provided a scientific bases or sound science as a basis for opposing the final rule issued by the Department of the Interior.

For these reasons and more, I would have opposed H.J. Res. 43 and H.J. Res. 69.

**HONORING HAL D. PAYNE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT**

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2017

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate and honor Mr. Hal D. Payne who is retiring from Buffalo State College after 27 years of service. He will be missed by all at Buffalo State and his years of work will not be forgotten, nor will his tireless commitment to broadening and enhancing the educational opportunities of Western New York.

Mr. Payne joined Buffalo State College in 1990 when he began to work as the assistant Vice President of Student Affairs. After a year he was promoted to Vice President. Under Mr. Payne's leadership, Buffalo State College has upgraded many of their student facilities such as the Frank C. Moore Apartment Complex, the Student Apartment Complex, Cassity Halls, and the Towers as well as the renovation of Houston Gymnasium.

In the summer of 2000, Mr. Payne completed the American Association of State Colleges and Universities' Millennium Leadership Initiative, this program provides leadership development and allows individuals the chance to develop skills and build an advanced network. This program has aided Mr. Payne's work of advancing Buffalo State's connections within and outside of the state of New York.

Before coming to Buffalo State, Mr. Payne served as Senior Associate for the Council for Opportunity in Education in Washington, D.C. and as the Chief of Staff to U.S. Representative Louis Stokes of Ohio. He currently acts as a consultant to the U.S. Department of Education, expanding his range of work to support education across America. His commitment to his work was recognized in 2010 by Governor David A. Patterson to the New York State Council on the Arts. Hal Payne's education at Western Reserve University, Cleveland State University, and at the Institution for Educational Management at Harvard University, has edified his knowledge and passion for advancing education.

Mr. Payne is the recipient of numerous awards which attest to the fact that his work has not gone unappreciated or unnoticed. Hal Payne earned the Oberlin Medal, which is the highest individual honor that is awarded by Oberlin College. In addition to the Oberlin Medal, Mr. Payne received the Walter O. Mason Jr. Award from the Council for Opportunity in Education. This national award is presented to those who exhibit distinguished service and leadership.

Outside of his work at Buffalo State College, Mr. Hal Payne has done a great deal of work for the greater Buffalo area. He currently participates in many organizations including the Buffalo Club, the leadership Buffalo Class of 1995, and is an active member of the Board of the Arts Services Initiative of Western New York. His passionate work within Western New York will be remembered for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me the chance to honor and recognize the legacy of Hal D. Payne's years of invaluable work. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. Payne on an accomplished career and to commend him for his 27 years of committed work at Buffalo State College.

## HONORING THE LIFE OF JOE WILLIAMS

## HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2017

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Joe Williams, who passed away on February 8, 2017 at the age of 79. Joe was a loving husband, father and grandfather, who dedicated much of his life to public service. He was a leader in the community, eventually becoming the first African-American elected to the Fresno City Council in 1977. Joe was a friend to many, a mentor, and trailblazer. His presence in the community will truly be missed.

Joe Williams was born on May 8, 1937 in Biloxi, Mississippi to Brooke Lee Starks and Charlie Williams. At the age of nine, his parents, along with Joe, his brother, George, and his sister, Audrey, moved to Fresno, California. He attended Edison High School and enlisted in the United States Army upon graduation in 1956. After his service, Joe enrolled in Fresno City College. He would go on to earn a scholarship to play football at Fresno State, where he graduated with his Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Welfare.

After graduating, Joe began his career with the Fresno County Welfare Department. In 1968, he went to work for the Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission (EOC), as the Director of the Fresno County Head Start Commission, where he would go on to work for 26 years. After two years, Joe was named Executive Director of Fresno EOC. He was the longest tenured Executive Director, serving in that role from 1970 to 1993. During his tenure, Fresno EOC expanded its budget from \$1.8 million to \$37 million, with 35 programs to provide services to 130,00 low income families annually. With the help of over 670 staff members, Fresno EOC was able to implement many programs including Palm Village family homeless shelter, open the first rural health clinic in Fresno County, and start a Meals on Wheels program for seniors. A sanctuary program for homeless youth was also established and named in his honor upon Joe's retirement. Under his leadership, Fresno EOC became a model for similar programs across the nation.

In 1977, Joe was elected to the Fresno City Council, making him the first African American elected to the council. He served two terms between 1977 and 1985. Joe was voted as Mayor Pro-Tem from 1984–1985.

In 1994, Joe joined Richard Heath and Associates, a privately owned company that aims to provide energy efficiency programs for underserved communities, serving as the CEO until 2005 and serving as board president through 2016. Along with his lifelong friends James Hendricks and Dr. James Aldredge, Joe formed HAW-Fifty Six, which provides services and housing in West Fresno. HAW-Fifty Six developed the Edison HAW Plaza and the first phase of a multi-family apartment complex in West Fresno, in collaboration with the Fresno Housing Authority. Joe volunteered his time, serving on numerous boards, including Community Medical Center Board of Trustees, California State University, Fresno Foundation Board and the Fresno Chamber of Commerce.

Joe is survived by his wife of 40 years Laura, their children Michael and his wife

Sonya, Winston, and Terri, his brother George, his grandchildren, great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the life and service of Joe Williams. He will be remembered for the selfless way in which he lived his life, always looking to help those in the community who were in need. I join his family in honoring his life, love for his community, and service to his country. He will be greatly missed.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE EQUALITY FOR ALL RESOLUTION

## HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2017

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, as Americans, we pride ourselves on being the most free and open society the world has ever known. Yet, for far too long, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Americans have been forced to live in the shadows because of who they are. Year after year, we see attacks on the LGBT community as governments at all levels look to institutionalize discrimination in the name of religious freedom. In 2015, we witnessed my home state of Indiana enact the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, giving businesses the right to refuse service based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

It is clear that the vast majority of Americans oppose this type of discrimination. After Indiana's law passed, the public and the business community came together to express outrage and successfully overturned Indiana's discriminatory law. However, we are still in need of a federal law to affirm the rights of all individuals to be protected from discrimination. That is why I am introducing the Equality for All Resolution to encourage Congress to take actions that ensure all Americans, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, know they are valued members of our society. From housing to employment to education, they deserve to live their lives like any other American, free from intolerance because of who they are.

## A TRIBUTE TO AZURE CHRISTENSEN

## HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2017

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Azure Christensen for being named a 2017 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, *Business Record*.

Since 2000, *Business Record* has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field.

The 2017 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 680 past business leaders and growing.

Azure is the Foundation Executive Director for HCI Care Services and Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa. In her 15-year career in non-profit development, she has helped raise over \$50 million for organizations in Central Iowa. The many causes she has worked hard to benefit include: creating opportunities for young children with cancer so that they can lead normal lives during difficult treatments, ensuring women have access to affordable healthcare, and providing easy access to quality higher education. Azure lives in Johnston with her husband, Zach, and her two young boys, Maddox and Grady.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Azure in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Azure on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at *Business Record* for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2017 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

## RECOGNIZING MS. ANDREA BROWN AS THE 2016–2017 OKALOOSA COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

## HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2017

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Andrea Brown as the 2016–2017 Okaloosa County Teacher of the Year. For 18 years, Ms. Brown has served the Okaloosa County School District with exceptional passion and an unwavering commitment to serving others.

In Northwest Florida, we are fortunate to have some of the best teachers in the Nation. It is recognized that the teaching profession is one of the most difficult yet rewarding professions in existence. Ms. Brown has exceptionally performed her teaching duties, while also striving to be an active and supportive member of her team at Baker School.

Most recently, Ms. Brown has served as a Title One Remediation Teacher for both math and reading. Through her work, she has helped countless students improve their reading and writing skills. The effects of her guidance and instruction will continue to have a profoundly positive impact on her students for many years.

Her support and outreach extends beyond the classroom as well, through her service on the Homecoming Committee, involvement with the Aspire after school program, and with Okaloosa Online. Ms. Brown has displayed remarkable compassion and devotion by spending time outside the classroom helping others. I commend her for her steadfast willingness to serve those that matter most, the students and youth of our Nation.

For all of her admirable contributions, I am truly proud to have Ms. Brown as a constituent in Florida's First Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Ms.