

5. Named in Empire Who's Who Registry of Executives & Professionals in 2003–2004

6. Appointed by Secretary of State, Eric Clark, Pilot Circuit Clerk for State/Saber Project in January, 2005 for the Statewide Election Management System

7. Parent of the Year in 2004–2005 at Holmes County School District

8. Appointed Program Evaluator for the 21st Judicial District Adult Drug/DUI Court in January, 2006

9. Certified Level 1 firefighter—MS State Fire Academy in May, 2006

10. Named Who's Who Among Professional Female Executives in 2008–2009

11. Received the Dr. Arenia C. Mallory Women History Award at St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church in Madison MS in March, 2009

12. Received Accountable Public Officials Award by Southern Echo, Inc. in December, 2010.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Earline Wright-Hart for her dedication to serving others and giving back to the African American community.

IN MEMORY OF DALE HARLEY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, South Carolina lost a dedicated public servant with the passing of West Columbia City Councilman Dale Harley. Pastor Michael Hood lovingly conducted a Service of Death and Resurrection on Sunday, March 26, 2017, at Platt Springs United Methodist Church in Springdale with organist Sherri Cafaro and soloist Jason Barrs. Pallbearers were Ben Breland, Michael Faulling, Peter Fisher, Dana Harley, Kevin Harley, Chuck Haseldon, Paul Rish, Kent Safriet, Van Safriet, Chris Threath, and Jeff Threath. Honorary Pallbearers were the West Columbia City Council members and the Joint Municipal Water and Sewer Commission. Thompson Funeral Home of Lexington thoughtfully coordinated services.

The following thoughtful obituary was included in the service program:

Leonard Dale Harley, Sr., 76, of West Columbia, SC, passed away Thursday, March 23, 2017. He was born in West Columbia, SC, to the late James "Alburn" and Leola Spires Harley.

Dale was a longtime member of Platt Springs UMC, where he once was very involved with the youth group and Boy Scouts. He was a member of the West Columbia City Council and a member of the Joint Municipal Water & Sewer Commission. He was a family man that loved spending time with his family, friends and pets. He will be missed by many.

Dale is survived by his loving wife of 55 years Sandy; his daughters, Lynn (Jim) Asbill of Anderson, SC and Kim (Kim) Harley of West Columbia; and son, Lee (Erika) Harley of Lexington. He also leaves behind his two grandchildren, Nathan and Auburn; his sisters, Sarah (Bill) Geddings, and Jean Threath; brother, James Mello (Sherrell) Harley; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his sisters, Frances Maxine Hamilton and Dorothy Joyce Faulling.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN YODER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I was not present on March 27, 2017 due to the death of my 105 year old Grandmother, Edna Yoder. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call vote Number 195. On Roll Call Number 196, I would have voted Yea.

IN RECOGNITION OF RICHARD BOALS

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an Arizona business leader, health care advocate, and dedicated community servant, Richard Boals. Mr. Boals has served as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona since 2003, providing strategic leadership and vision for the company through critical times of change and transition in the industry.

As a long-time advocate, Mr. Boals is active in the community and has been involved with countless professional and local organizations. His focus and dedication are aimed at youth and education, health, wellness and human services, economic and civic development, and arts and culture.

Mr. Boals is on the board of directors for Arizona Commerce Authority, Greater Phoenix Leadership, Arizona State University W.P. Carey School of Business Center for Services Leadership, Arizona State University President's Club, Arizona State University Dean's Council of 100, and the Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation. He is a member of the Translational Genomics Research Institute's board of directors, Arizona Educational Foundation's advisory board, and the Phoenix Police Reserve Foundation board of directors. He is chairman of the board of directors for TriWest Healthcare and O'Connor House.

As a community and business leader, Mr. Boals has been honored with several awards: the ASU Alumni Leadership Award, the Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation's Heroes of Education Award, the Victoria Foundation's Advocates for Education Award, the American Jewish Committee's National Human Relations and Centennial Leadership Awards, the Anti-Defamation League's Jerry J. Wisotsky Torch of Liberty Award, the Greater Phoenix Urban League's Whitney M. Young, Jr. Individual Award, the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation's Globe and Anchor Award, and the Phoenix Business Journal's Silver Anniversary Honor Roll Award.

Mr. Boals received his associate's degree from Phoenix College and bachelor's degree in accounting from Arizona State University. He has completed executive development courses at Fuqua School of Business at Duke University, Haas School of Business at the University of California, Harvard University and University of Michigan. Mr. Boals served four years in the United States Air Force before beginning his career at BCBSAZ.

I congratulate Richard on an incredible career in the service of a healthier Arizona. I wish him and his wife Maryglenn a healthy and happy retirement filled with friends, family, and adventure.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber for roll call votes 195 and 196 Monday, March 27, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted "Yea" on roll call votes 195 and 196.

HONORING DWIGHT A. BARFIELD

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary Black History honoree, Mr. Dwight A. Barfield.

Dwight A. Barfield was born to a prominent Civil Rights Activist and Vice Mayor of Marks, MS, the Late James Figs Barfield and Eloise Barfield of Marks, MS. As a child, he was determined to be a distinguished follower of his father.

Webster's dictionary delineates success as "the attainment of wealth, favor and eminence." It is an apt definition, but only a partial one. What is missing is the kind of success that can only be measured in terms of self-fulfillment. At the young age of twenty-one and with the collaboration of young and old supporters and influential African Americans, Dwight Anthony Barfield was successful in his bid of becoming the youngest Mayor of Marks, Mississippi and the youngest elected official in Quitman County on June 3, 1993.

During his tenure as mayor (Three Consecutive Terms from June 1993 through June 2005), Dwight earned a reputation of being a coalition-builder, managing to keep the City of Marks Board of Alderman and the Quitman County Supervisors together. Under his signature leadership, the citizens and the business community thrived and flourished. He partnered with the Casino industry, (namely, Grand Casino) to provide city and county citizen's jobs. He brought business such as McDonald's, Family Dollar, BFI Waste Management to name a few.

He has continued to exude unprecedented willingness to do whatever it takes to keep the community abreast of the positives and negatives. He is recognized amongst his family, his community, and his colleagues as a man of integrity, service, compassion, and outstanding spirit. He attended the historic church where Dr. Martin Luther King spoke on behalf of the "Poor People Campaign that started in the 1968."

He is a dedicated and devoted member of Silent Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Marks MS where he serves as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and as Deacon.

He continues to be an activist in his community while ensuring that elected officials are

held accountable for their actions to the citizens of Quitman County.

He has served on various committees and is a member of numerous organizations to include, but not limited to the following:

1. Currently served as Vice President of Mid-State Opportunity, Inc.
2. Served as Male Mentor, After-School Peer Tutoring Program for Disadvantaged Youth
3. Past President of the Mississippi Conference of Black Mayors
4. Past Board Member of the National Conference of Black Mayors
5. Past Board Member and Director of the U.S. World Conference of Mayors
6. Member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
7. Delegate and Traveled abroad to Africa (Nigeria, Ghana and Senegal) to promote Democracy and World Peace.
8. Members of Masonic Lodge Number 315 of Crowder, MS
9. Founder and Former Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop Number 306

Dwight A. Barfield's leadership, dedication, remarkable acts of courage, perseverance, tireless service to all mankind and passion to make a difference in his community, makes him an outstanding community activist.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Community Activist and Former Mayor, Dwight Anthony Barfield for his dedication to serving this City, County and State.

HOLY SEE ARTICLES

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues several more articles that I have written over the years regarding the Holy See. As a Member of the Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats Subcommittee on Foreign Affairs, these pieces serve to outline and inform discussions that our Committee will cover in the 115th Congress.

U.S. MUST EMBRACE HOLY SEE

The past few years have seen cordial but cooling relations between the United States and the Vatican. Since President Obama took office, he has visited the Vatican just once, and the administration has demonstrated little more than a perfunctory interest in the Holy See's diplomatic role in the world. This is a lost opportunity at a critical time for America. U.S. foreign policy has much to gain from its relationship with the Holy See, the governing body of the Catholic Church. No institution on earth has both the international stature and the global reach of the Holy See—the “soft power” of moral influence and authority to promote religious freedom, human liberties, and related values that Americans and our allies uphold worldwide.

President Reagan established full diplomatic relations with the Holy See in 1984 because, among other reasons, he realized that he could have no better partner than Pope John Paul II in the fight against communism—and he was right. The administration of George W. Bush continued to expand these relations, even in difficult times while engaged in a conflict in Iraq of which the Holy See had strongly and vocally dis-

approved. Before President Obama's recent appointment of Ken Hackett as the next U.S. ambassador to the Holy See, there was growing speculation that the administration was considering completely eliminating the diplomatic mission, or reducing it to an appendage of the Embassy in Rome. While the Obama administration has been in conflict with the Catholic Church on a range of issues from abortion to contraception, it is clearly in America's national interests to strengthen diplomatic ties with the Holy See to advance our interests around the world.

The United States and the Holy See remain two of the most significant institutions in world history, one a beacon of democracy and progress, the other a sanctum of faith and allegiance to timeless principles. Despite these differences between the first modern democracy and the longest surviving Western monarchy, both were founded on the idea that “human persons” possess inalienable natural rights granted by God. This had been a revolutionary concept when the Catholic Church embraced it 2,000 years ago, and was equally revolutionary when the Declaration of Independence stated it 1,800 years later.

The Church is one of the leading advocates and providers for the poor in the world, fights against the scourge of human trafficking, and advances the cause of human dignity and rights more than any other organization in the world. The Holy See also plays a significant role in pursuing diplomatic solutions to international predicaments. In 2007, for example, the Holy See helped secure the release of several British sailors who had been picked up by the Iranian navy. Its long-standing bilateral relations with Iran and the lack of such relations by the British and other western governments created an opportunity for successful intervention.

And more recently, the Holy See issued its diplomatic note concerning the civil war in Syria, calling for a “concept of citizenship” in which everyone is a citizen with equal dignity. It is urging the commissions which are working on a possible future constitution and laws to ensure that Christians and representatives of all other minorities be involved. This immediately helped place a spotlight on the plight of Christians and the ongoing exodus of all non-Muslims from most Middle East countries for the last 30 years. The power and influence of the Holy See is often underestimated. A benevolent monarchy tucked into a corner of a modern democracy, the Holy See is at once a universally recognized sovereign representing more than a billion people (one-seventh of the world's population)—and the civil government of the smallest nation-state on earth. It has no military and only a negligible economy, but it has greater reach and influence than most nations. It's not simply the number or variety of people that the Holy See represents that gives it relevance; it's also the moral influence of the Church, which is still considerable despite secularization and scandals.

The Holy See advocates powerfully for morality in the lives of both Catholics and non-Catholics, and in both individuals and nations. One may disagree with some of the Church's positions and yet still recognize the value—the real and practical value—of its insistence that “right” should precede “might” in world affairs. At its core, the Catholic Church is a powerful and unique source of non-coercive “soft power” on the world stage—it moves people to do the right thing by appealing to ideals and shared values, rather than to fear and brute force. America's foreign policy is much more likely to succeed with the support of the Holy See.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani recently gave a nod to this soft power in his Wash-

ington Post op-ed when he decried the “framework that has emphasized hard power and the use of brute force.” One can speculate on the motivations and intentions of such an unlikely source, but at least there is an admission of the importance of diplomatic alternatives which are based on persuasive fundamental principles.

No two sovereigns are more naturally aligned than the United States and the Holy See in the pursuit of diplomacy founded on the core moral principles of the inalienable rights of man, his essential God-granted human dignity, and the right of all to religious freedom. This is rightly called the “first freedom” because our other freedoms seldom flourish in its absence.

REFLECTING ON THE LIFE OF ARCHBISHOP PIETRO SAMBI, DIPLOMAT OF THE HOLY SEE

The death of Archbishop Pietro Sambì, Papal Nuncio to the United States for the last five years, is a great loss for the diplomatic community in Washington, D.C. and for the world. A veteran diplomat with many years experience in Israel and Palestine, Archbishop Sambì brought a depth of knowledge and personal credibility to the diplomacy of the Holy See which will be greatly missed.

Prior to his posting in Washington, Archbishop Sambì was stationed in Cuba, Nicaragua, Belgium and India. As papal representative to Israel and Palestine from 1998 until 2005, he was instrumental in the planning and execution of the Holy Land visit of Pope John Paul II in 2000 and was deeply involved in the Holy See's diplomacy during the 2006 Lebanon war, where the traditional power sharing coalition was challenged by the presence of Hezbollah. His personal credibility was important during this war in mobilizing the Christian coalition there.

His Cuba and Nicaragua experience was important in his understanding of the challenges the United States faces in these countries and in expressing the Holy See's goals for religious freedom and pursuance of the democratic process there. He was Nuncio in Nicaragua as the Sandinista revolution took control of the country and challenged church authority and democratic institutions there. He was involved in planning Pope John Paul II's 1983 visit wherein the Pope challenged Daniel Ortega and his government.

While Archbishop Sambì was in Cuba in an earlier time, from 1974-1979, his efforts in working with the local church were valuable in keeping the goals of freedom and tolerance alive. The recent release of the last of the March 2003 political prisoners in Cuba by the Castro government exemplifies the valuable contributions of Holy See diplomacy, the result of many leaders like Archbishop Sambì.

He was, in short, a most qualified diplomat and a man whose warmth reminded many officials of the first apostolic pro-nuncio to the United States, Cardinal Pio Laghi.

In meetings with him I realized his keen understanding of the unique role of religion and faith in the United States as protected by the First Amendment. He realized, like his predecessor Archbishop Pio Laghi, that the American experiment of the First Amendment has much to offer the world.

Though it is only natural for a prominent priest to proclaim the importance of religious freedom and its importance in sustaining civil society, Sambì was also an earnest proponent of the freedoms of speech and press. He warmly received journalists in an effort to connect with an American audience that went beyond the capital beltway region and daily withstood anti-Catholic protesters picketing just outside his office. In times of crisis within the Church and without, he resolutely defended the goodness that religion