

national awards and recognitions including a fourth Gold Medal Award for Excellence from the National Recreation and Park Association, the Virginia Municipal League's Achievement Award, and two Green Government Certifications to both the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Town of Herndon Police Department. In addition, the Town received the Government Finance Officers Association of both the United States and Canada's Award for Excellence in recognition of his commitment to fiscal responsibility and his work in maintaining the Town's AAA bond rating.

While one might think that this level of dedication and commitment would be enough for one individual, Art's involvement in his community also extends to his activities outside of his profession. He is a member of the Herndon Rotary and Lions Clubs, the National Recreation and Parks Association Commission on Accreditation, and the Virginia Local Government Management Association, to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, I have often said that public service is among the most noble of callings. The tireless dedication of individuals like Art are selfless acts that are truly worthy of our highest praise. I commend him for his service to our community and ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him great success in all his future endeavors.

HONORING NAIMAH BILAL

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, this past February we celebrated Black History Month, during which time we recognize the important contributions made by African-Americans to this great nation. Nowhere is that heritage more visible than in New York City. That is why, at my office's annual Black History Month Celebration, I was honored to recognize Ms. Naimah Bilal, who has been a lifelong, tireless community advocate.

Born and raised in Harlem, NY, she started her community involvement at an early age. She and other community members marched for an overpass to be built for the newly constructed FDR Drive, where many accidents occurred as people tried to cross over to the park where the basketball and handball courts were located. Her efforts were successful, the overpass was built and accidents decreased.

Later, Naimah and her family moved to Lenox Avenue in Harlem and she continued to be active on several committees at Masjid Malcolm Shabazz.

Naimah worked for the NYS Division of Housing & Community Renewal (DHCR) representing the Clerical Staff of this Agency and Delegate of DC 37 until retiring after 22 years in October 2007.

Upon moving to the Bronx, she got involved with several community based organizations including the 44th Precinct Community Council and CASA (Community Action for Safe Apartments). She is the President of Council Member Vanessa Gibson's Tenants Block and Neighborhood Council and President of her Tenants Association. She is an active member of DC37 Retirees.

Ms. Bilal prides herself on being a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and a com-

munity organizer. She encourages all to get involved, especially the Youth, so they have a full understanding of what is going on in their communities and to be aware of what their rights and responsibilities are so that they are empowered and civically engaged. Ms. Bilal serves as a wonderful example of those important values. She has made great contributions to the Bronx and my congressional district, and I am truly thankful to count her as a constituent.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Ms. Naimah Bilal for her continued commitment to service.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY SPECIALIST (SPC) WILLIAM ANTHONY BLOUNT

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army Specialist (SPC) William Anthony Blount who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our nation on April 7, 2010, in Mosul, Iraq when his vehicle was attacked with an improvised explosive device. He was 21 years old and was serving with the 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division of Fort Stewart, GA. His commanding officer, 1LT Robert Wilson Collins was also killed in the attack.

SPC Blount joined the military in 2009 after graduating from Petal High School in Petal, Mississippi. Following his death, the SPC William Anthony Blount Memorial Scholarship was established at Petal High School.

Nate McRae, SPC Blount's brother-in-law said his brother was extremely honorable. All of his commanding officers said he was an amazing soldier and that his loss was keenly felt.

The procession of SPC Blount's body from the Pine Belt Regional Airport to Moore Funeral Home, led by Mississippi Highway Patrol officers and Petal officials, travelled from Interstate 59 to Evelyn Gandy Parkway to Petal High School along Mississippi Highway 42. With flags and posters in hand, residents lined the streets, and students were released from school to view the procession.

SPC Blount is survived by his wife Amanda and his daughter Avery Elizabeth Blount. He is also survived by parents, Billy and Kay Blount, and his siblings, Laken Blount and Lori McRae.

RECOGNITION OF THE WEST GADSDEN BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. AL LAWSON, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. LAWSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the West Gadsden Boys Basketball Team on their 2017 FHSAA State Championship win over Wildwood. This is the first time in 46 years that the mighty bulldog's

basketball team has accomplished this great milestone. They have proven that dedication, hard work and unwavering passion will carry you a long way.

This win was a special moment for West Gadsden Bulldogs as it honored one of their very own. On June 17, coaching legend William Moody, who helped the Bulldogs win 75 games in a row and Class C state titles from 1969–71, passed away.

The Bulldogs has made not only me and Coach Moody proud, but the entire Fifth Congressional District proud as well.

I look forward to watching their future success in both their academic and athletic pursuits and wish them all the very best.

IN RECOGNITION OF KEITH MOSS, MAYOR OF DURYEA

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Keith Moss, Mayor of Duryea Borough. On April 18, 2017, Mayor Moss will receive the 2017 Joseph Saporito, Sr. Lifetime of Service Award for his dedication to the people of Duryea.

Keith first began serving his community in his youth as a Boy Scout. At the age of 20, Keith joined the Germania Hose Company as a volunteer firefighter. Throughout his membership with the hose company, Keith served as president, vice-president, and trustee. Keith began his political career in 1992, when he was elected to Duryea Borough Council. In 2001, Keith successfully ran for Mayor of Duryea and has since served the borough as its chief administrator. In addition to presiding over the borough's affairs, Mayor Moss has officiated weddings over the years.

In September 2011, Mayor Moss' leadership was put to the test when rain from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee flooded areas of Duryea. After being alerted by Luzerne County Emergency Management of possible flooding, Mayor Moss issued a declaration that gave him temporary operational control of Duryea. For 72 hours, he worked non-stop with other government officials to prepare residents for evacuation. After the storm hit, 139 homes in the borough were destroyed. Tasked with clean up from the storm, Mayor Moss was promised federal aid from former Vice President Joe Biden, who personally surveyed flooded sections of Duryea.

Today, Mayor Moss continues to serve the Duryea Borough and is focusing on fostering closer relationships in the community. He helped arrange Duryea's involvement in National Night Out, an event that promotes community-police camaraderie, as well as the borough's Halloween party.

It is an honor to recognize Mayor Moss as he accepts the 2017 Joseph Saporito, Sr. Lifetime of Service Award. His long history of service to Duryea is significant contribution to the fabric of America. May he continue to fulfill his mayoral duties with honor.

RECOGNIZING THE 2017 FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of men and women in Northern Virginia. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety and have been awarded the prestigious Valor Award by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

This is the 39th Annual Valor Awards sponsored by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce. This event honors the remarkable heroism and bravery in the line of duty exemplified by our public safety officers. Our public safety and law enforcement personnel put their lives on the line every day to keep our families and neighborhoods safe. This year's ceremony will present 125 awards to recognize extraordinary actions above and beyond the call of duty in a variety of categories including the Lifesaving Certificate, the Certificate of Valor, and the Bronze and Silver Medals of Valor.

Twenty-three awards will be bestowed upon first responders who serve with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department in recognition of their exceptional service. It is with great pride that I include in the RECORD the names of the following Valor Award Recipients.

BRONZE MEDAL OF VALOR

Captain I Bruce A. Neuhaus
Lieutenant Ji Y. Lee
Lieutenant Sean E. Ferguson
Lieutenant Diron D. Powell
Master Technician Marc G. Campet
Master Technician Daryl T. Casey
Master Technician Herbert M. Knerr
Master Technician Michael C. Lewis
Master Technician Peter G. Zagorites
Technician Sean P. Allen
Firefighter Fidel A. Blanco

LIFESAVING AWARD

Deputy Chief Andrew L. Duke
Captain II Mark E. Kordalski
Captain Walter Johnson
Lieutenant Scott F. Primrose
Technician James L. Campbell
Technician Travis L. Franks
Technician Michael A. Garcia
Technician James E. Pfister
Technician Adam J. Silvers
Firefighter Medic Vicki L. Swain
Firefighter Sidney B. Boyd
Firefighter Robert L. Knupp

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2017 Valor Award Recipients, and thank each of the men and women who serve in the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of our community, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

HONORING SHIRLEY POWELL FOR HER LEGACY AND COURAGEOUS SERVICE

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an outstanding member of my district Chief Master Sergeant (CMSgt) Shirley Powell of Cathedral City, California. She passed away in March 2017. Her dedication and service to our nation are an inspiration. CMSgt Powell was a member of my congressional office's Veterans' Advisory Board and Military Academy Nominations Selection Committee. She was a remarkable leader, and I am honored to have called her my constituent and my friend. Today, I want to recognize her life achievements.

CMSgt Powell worked for 45 years in the field of Aerospace. In 1962, she joined the U.S. Air Force (USAF), where she served for 38 years. She was a founding member of the 68th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron (AES) in the Military Airlift Command KC-97 Globemaster Program, where she served multiple tours in support of Vietnam and other international and domestic efforts. In 1981, she transferred to the California Air National Guard TAC C-130 Program.

She was honored with numerous, well-deserved distinctions. In the Air National Guard 146th Wing, Shirley was the first female to achieve the rank of Senior Master Sergeant and the first female to be selected for the special duty of First Sergeant. Among her numerous awards are the Meritorious Service Medal, the Presidential Unit Citation, the Combat Readiness Medal, the Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal, the National Defense Service Ribbon, the Vietnam Service Medal, and the Southwest Asia Service Medal.

After her retirement in 2000, she was highly active in various associations in the community. She became an active member of the Palm Springs Air Force Association, the Air Force Sergeants Association, the Noncommissioned Officer Association, and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard, where she held numerous Board positions. She was selected to serve on the Riverside County Veterans Advisory Committee, and she maintained her status as Chief Exam Proctor for the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Society for Quality.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize and honor Shirley Powell. I am proud of the opportunity to have worked together with her to improve the lives of veterans in our community. Her distinguished career and her years of committed service to the community are an example of excellence, dedication, and service to our Nation that all should seek to emulate.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, April 5, 2017, I missed the following vote:

1. Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule providing for consideration of

H.R. 1219. Had I been present, I would have voted "NO" on this motion.

HONORING BRONX COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY DARCEL CLARK

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, we recently celebrated Black History Month this past February. During my office's annual Black History Month Celebration, I was honored to reflect on the tremendous contributions African-Americans have made within my district in Bronx County, and to recognize several outstanding individuals contributing to their community. Let me mention one of those people today—Bronx County District Attorney Darcel Clark. She is the first woman in this position, the first female African-American District Attorney in the state of New York, and has been a trailblazer for criminal justice throughout her professional career.

District Attorney Clark became the District Attorney for our county on January 1, 2016. Prior to her election, District Attorney Clark served as an Associate Justice for the New York State Supreme Court Appellate Division, First Department; a New York State Supreme Court Justice in Bronx County; and a Criminal Court Judge in Bronx and New York Counties. She spent more than 16 years on the bench.

District Attorney Clark is also a lifelong Bronxite, raised in NYCHA's Soundview Houses. She attended public schools in New York City, graduating from Harry S Truman High School. She attended Boston College and received her Bachelor's Degree in Political Science where she was the first recipient of the University's Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Scholarship. She then went on to earn her law degree at the Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C.

District Attorney Clark returned home in 1986 to begin her legal career at the Bronx District Attorney's Office. She prosecuted many cases, including drug felonies, violent crimes, and homicides. District Attorney Clark served as a Supervising ADA in the Narcotics Bureau and the Deputy Chief of the Criminal Court Bureau. In 1999, she left the Office for her first judicial post.

District Attorney Clark also serves on the Boston College Board of Trustees and has served in leadership positions in the National Association of Women Judges and the Black Bar Association of Bronx County.

Throughout her career in public service, District Attorney Clark has worked to ensure fairness, accountability, and justice for Bronxites. In her new role as Bronx County District Attorney, she has already made the office more responsive, and worked to reduce case delays that have diminished trust in our system of justice. She is an important role model to all in our community, and I look forward to working with her in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Ms. Darcel Clark for her tireless work to ensure justice and commitment to the people of the Bronx.