

clinics, deliver “meals on wheels” every month, help supply the local food pantry, donate gifts during the holidays to local families in need, and support scholarships to high school graduates pursuing higher education opportunities. Their vision statement, “Hope and grace for all God’s children through Christ,” is a fitting anthem that embodies all their efforts in bringing glory to God.

Mr. Speaker, I pray for Christ’s guidance as the congregation comes together in this time of celebration and reflection. May God continue to bless Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church as they spread the good news of the Gospel and live out Christ’s love in our community.

TRIBUTE TO CREOLA BLACKWELL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 2, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Creola Blackwell on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

Our world has changed a great deal during Creola’s life. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Creola has lived through eighteen United States Presidents and twenty-two Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Creola in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a happy 100th birthday. I invite my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Creola Blackwell on reaching this incredible milestone and wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

HONORING GLORIA DIAZ WITH CALIFORNIA’S THIRD DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 2, 2018

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gloria Diaz as a woman of the year. She exemplifies the qualities of selfless service and possesses a deep desire to help others in the community. Her professional work and volunteerism demonstrates her commitment to improving her community. As a Clinical Service Manager for the Vacaville Police Department, Gloria has worked for more than two decades as a mental health clinician and care provider. She oversees more than twenty grants that provide funding to programs that are vital in assisting members in the community who need urgent care and aid during a crisis. In her leadership role at the Family Resource Center in Vacaville, Gloria dedicates her time selflessly to assist hundreds of individuals and families gain financial support and access to direct-need services. Each year through the Family Investigative Response Service Team and Youth Services Section, Gloria works to support internship opportunities for college students to gain valuable experience in the field of mental health counseling. Her role in putting together the successful and expanding Summer at City Hall program aimed at supporting students focused on ca-

reers in public service exemplifies her fondness for community service. Gloria Diaz’s tireless efforts and devotion to this program have been instrumental to its continuous success. Her hard work in helping those in need is inspirational and demonstrates what it truly means to serve your community.

RECOGNIZING THE PASSING OF DAVID AYALA-ZAMORA

HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 2, 2018

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize David Ayala-Zamora, who died on Wednesday, October 17, 2018. David’s passing is a huge loss for the City of Seattle and the Pacific Northwest region. As a union organizer and immigrant rights organizer, David was a true champion for justice.

David was born into a middle-class family in El Salvador. During the 1980s, David was one quarter away from graduating with a degree in electrical engineering when he decided to put his studies on hold to organize with teachers during El Salvador’s civil war. He also worked for a government institute that managed pensions for public employees as the grievance secretary, often putting him in very challenging and dangerous situations.

David’s visibility as a union leader and his calls to end the war eventually led to his arrest and torture by Salvadoran security forces. His early experiences being tortured shaped the core of his character and he brought that strength and resilience to everything he did. David described being tortured as “The best experience in my life. Being tortured is like running a marathon. It taught me how committed I am in the struggle for justice. And it has fortified me in some ways, because you learn how much capacity you have in this body.”

Forced into exile in the United States where he eventually became a U.S. citizen, David returned to organizing work in his new home. He was driven to continue this work, saying that “Those of us who were touched by people who gave everything for justice, we have to try to keep them alive and with us through the work we do.”

David’s work continues to be felt across the Pacific Northwest region. He was one of the organizers who launched the day laborer organizing project that became Casa Latina, which continues to advocate for immigrant workers’ rights. Many years later, he worked with me as the Organizing Director at OneAmerica, the organization that I founded and where I served as Executive Director for 11 years. David was a true partner to me, helping me to expand our organization across Washington State as we grew OneAmerica to be the state’s largest immigrant rights organization. David was exceptional at seeing leadership qualities in ordinary people and helping them to develop that leadership to do extraordinary things. Thanks to his work, OneAmerica was able to strengthen power within underrepresented immigrant communities and win major policy victories from maintaining driver’s licenses for undocumented immigrants, to organizing for the creation of Washington State’s first and only majority-minority congressional district, and pushing for a state Voting Rights Act.

David also worked for many years at SEIU in Portland and Seattle, organizing low-wage workers to bring justice to the workplace; as the Field Director at Working Washington where he organized airport workers at the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport to fight for fair wages and a safe workplace; and as the Organizing Director at Promise Arizona, orga-

nizing around voting rights, civic participation, and health care.

David is survived by his wife, Siovhon Sheridan Ayala, and his children, David Ayala-Lindeman, Margarita Anne Ayala-Sheridan, and Maura Ruth Ayala-Sheridan; his father, David Ayala-Dominguez; and five brothers and sisters, Ana Betty Ayala de Giron, Obed Edgardo Ayala-Zamora, Ruth Ayala-Zamora, Yani Ayala-Zamora, and Eliud Ulises Ayala-Zamora.

David was a trusted advisor and partner to me in fighting for immigrant and worker justice. His irrepressible laughter, his deep appreciation for life, and his hunger for justice has sustained and inspired so many across the Northwest and in El Salvador. A light has gone from our world, but David’s legacy shines brightly with all those he touched and all the movements he helped build. His lasting impact on the region will endure for many years to come.

COMMEMORATING 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF LAKEWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 2, 2018

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the one hundred twenty-fifth anniversary of the Lakewood Fire Department.

In 1893, citizens of Lakewood joined together to form the Lakewood Bucket Brigade. Neighbors and friends intent on preserving the safety of their community set the foundation for more than a century of service to come.

Dedicated to protecting its citizens, the village of Lakewood was covered by not one, but two fire companies for nearly forty years. Lakewood Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1, later known as Lakewood Hose Co. No. 1, was formed in 1899. Through generous donations from J.W. Packard, the Lakewood firefighters received land for a new fire hall and 1915 Model T Ford Chemical Fire engine. In 1924, Lakewood’s second fire company, known as the Lakewood Chemical Co. Inc., was formed. In 1964 the Lakewood Hose Co. No. 1 and the Lakewood Chemical Co. merged to become the present day Lakewood Fire Co. Inc.

Over the years, the Lakewood Fire Department has grown in size and expanded in their capabilities. By adding marine rescue units, heavy rescue vehicles, ambulances, and ladder trucks, the Lakewood Fire Department has adapted to meet the safety needs of their community. Construction and later renovation of a training center has ensured Lakewood firefighters are well prepared for the dangers they may face in the line of duty.

One hundred twenty-five years of service to the community is certainly a cause for celebration. I congratulate the Lakewood Fire Department for their impressive record of hard work and look forward to many more years of them keeping our community safe.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to celebrate the Lakewood Fire Department’s one hundred twenty-five years of service.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN PORTAGEVILLE, MO

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 2, 2018

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor First Baptist Church of Portageville, Missouri on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary.

The church was founded on November 4th of 1868, when a small group in Portageville organized around a collective sense of faith and worship. The original congregation met in a log building erected in the 1850's, later moving into the local masonic lodge, which they shared with the freemasons. Since the early 1900's, First Baptist Church has met in one of three buildings at its current location.

First Baptist Church has the distinction of being the oldest church in the membership of the New Madrid Baptist Association, which is composed of the Southern Baptist congregations in New Madrid and Pemiscot Counties.

Today, the church has 306 members and is involved in local and nationwide missions. The church provides Bibles for distribution through the local RAIN (Reaching All In Need) Food Ministry, and also hosts weekly meetings for foster parent training.

For continuing its work of proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ through 150 years of change and challenge, it is my great pleasure to honor First Baptist Church today before the United States House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO ELLA MAE WRIGHT

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 2, 2018

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, Ella Mae Wright passed away in Knoxville, Tennessee on September 27th, at the age of 101. She was a great wife, mother, business woman, and all-around good citizen of the type that has made this country great.

Mrs. Wright and her husband J.B. were married for 67 years. They founded Wright's Cafeteria which still today is one of Knoxville's most popular eating establishments. It was once described in a Knoxville newspaper as my "favorite restaurant."

Mrs. Wright's pride and joy were her three children, David, Janice, and Calvin, and her seven grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

She could often be found in the Cafeteria, greeting customers, most of whom she considered as longtime friends. She was always smiling and offering encouraging words to everyone.

During her 101 years, she lived her Christian faith every day and touched thousands of lives in good and positive ways. This Country is a better place today because of the life Ella Mae Wright led.

I wanted my colleagues and others to know about this good woman and great American.

HONORING GINA TAYLOR WITH CALIFORNIA'S THIRD DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 2, 2018

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gina Taylor as a woman of the year. She is committed to serving children throughout her community and devotes her time to many volunteer organizations. As president of the Willows Unified School District Board she works with other board members to ensure the school district provides a safe and engaging learning environment where each student has the opportunity to realize their full potential, develop respect and tolerance for others, and ultimately become a productive member of the community. Ms. Taylor is an integral part of realizing the school district's mission of preparing today's students for tomorrow's challenges. The time she devotes to the school board is a true testament to how much she values education. Ms. Taylor was also a founding member of The Painted Ladies, a group that worked to fill the gaps in school budgets by cleaning and painting classrooms throughout the district. This work helped to provide a positive learning environment for countless students. She has also given her time volunteering for the Clover 4-H Club, the Glenn County 4-H Council, the Willows High Ag Boosters organization, and the Sober Grad event. Ms. Taylor is a dedicated community servant who can be depended upon to find a positive approach to each objective she pursues. Her accomplishments throughout Glenn County are truly remarkable.

CONSTITUENT COMMENTS ON SOBER LIVING HOME PROBLEMS

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 2, 2018

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise again regarding the hearing held by the Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice on September 28, 2018, on the issue of sober living homes. At that hearing, I had the privilege of testifying in support of my bill, H.R. 5724, to restore local oversight over sober living homes. As part of my testimony, I submitted to the Subcommittee letters from many of my constituents about problems with sober living homes caused by current federal law preventing appropriate local oversight. For the benefit of my colleagues and the American people, I include in the RECORD the eighth group of these constituent letters below:

These are examples of what our neighborhood has had to endure since the Sober living home has opened in our neighborhood. As some of the new tenants moved in they introduced themselves as a bunch of college students. These tenants moved out within two weeks. We believe this was a ploy by [REDACTED] get the start in the neighborhood without attracting attention. Since they moved in, our neighborhood has had to put up with cars parked illegally up and down the street. When confronted, the tenants of the house use profanity and extremely rude language and gestures.

The neighborhood is on constant alert due to activity on our street and in and out of the house all hours of the night and day. Specifically, one-night last week a tenant walked out with a backpack around 1:00 a.m. and met with a stranger who was dropped off in our neighborhood earlier. The two were observed cooking heroin. The police were called and showed up. The two ran off along with a third person waiting in the sober liv-

ing house back yard. When the police arrived this person and the one doing the drugs went home to home trying to get into houses. All of this was verified and collaborated via the many cameras in the neighborhood. One vehicle kept at the house, which is usually parked on the street, appears to be a drop point. People drive up and place something in the trunk and later a tenant will pick up whatever has been dropped off and bring it into the house.

Our entire neighborhood has turned into a place where we do not feel safe. Our children must call before they come home so we can escort them into the house. The house has two aggressive pit bulls who have gotten out and pinned a neighbor inside her car unable to leave. When animal control arrived, the dog was put in the house and one tenant said to the officer it's not my dog and left.

These are examples of what our neighborhood has been dealing with. Some other concerns are the property values as several long time homeowners are already talking about selling to get away from the element that has moved in. This home in question is less than 1000 feet from a school. The school has been notified and parents that drop off their kids for school will be notified about this house. This can negatively affect the attendance of the school.

The local police say there is nothing they can do, the city council tell us there is nothing we can do, this is our neighborhood and should not be driven out because of greed, or loopholes in the laws and insurance scams. We would hope Congress would give the local city's authority to regulate and set rules for these kind of houses, and the ability to shut them down for illegal activity.

LESS TAIT,

Huntington Beach, California.

My parents purchased their home in Huntington Beach, CA in 1977. I grew up in Huntington Beach, went to college and returned to the city to build my life. I purchased my residence in Huntington Beach in 2000. My family has loved living in Huntington Beach. However, our lives drastically changed in the last year.

The couple that lived next door to my parents purchased their home 41 years ago as original owners. They raised three children in the home like my parents. They unfortunately passed away recently, and their children sold the home in November 2017. For months the home was under construction, but my parents didn't think much of it. Then earlier this year we noticed the neighbor had a large white commercial style van outside, installed a fire sprinkler system with a red bell above the front door, and divided the bonus room into two rooms. We discovered from the person renovating the home that instead of a large family, it was going to house single people. The property records show the home was purchased by a lawyer representing a LLC business and that LLC business was owned by a business called [REDACTED]. We assume it is a sober living home for men, but it may be some other type of facility operated by [REDACTED].

On February 24, 2018 was the first time I experienced a problem. I went over to visit my parents from 8:30 am to 9:30 am. I sat in a chair in the family room. We had the windows closed. I smelled a strong smoke smell in the home. I didn't know where it was coming from. I left after one hour and had a headache for six hours after.

From February 24, 2018 to April 8, 2018, I visited my parent's home about ten times. Every time I visited I smelled smoke in the home, backyard and/or front yard and experience health symptoms (burning eyes, coughing, shortness of breath, headache and/or feeling of sickness). I did not smell smoke or experience health symptoms prior to February 24, 2018. I experienced these symptoms even with the operation of multiple HEPA filters purchased to get rid of smoke.

On Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018, at about 10:30 pm I came to pick up some food. During the ten minutes I was at my parent's home I coughed the entire time. I was not coughing before coming to the home and didn't cough after I returned to my car.