

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF DR. JANETTE HOSTON HARRIS**HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 13, 2018*

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Janette Hoston Harris, an educator, historian, public servant, and activist, who died on November 2, 2018 at the age of 79.

In 1960, during her senior year, Dr. Harris was one of six Southern University students arrested for trying to desegregate an all-white lunch counter in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The students were also expelled from the university by order of the governor and prohibited from attending any college in the state. While attending Central State University in Ohio, Dr. Harris' case challenging segregation, *Hoston v. State of Louisiana*, went before the Louisiana Supreme Court and in time became part of the larger *Garner v. State of Louisiana* case, which was won by future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall in 1962.

In 2004, Dr. Harris, along with her fellow sit-in comrades was awarded an honorary degree from Southern University, 44 years after the state officials forced her from campus and from attending any Louisiana institution of higher education.

Dr. Janette Hoston Harris was born on September 7, 1939, in Monroe, Louisiana; her mother, Maud Marrie Hoston, was a homemaker and her father, Eluin Homer Hoston, was a printer and businessman who opened the first shoe store in Louisiana for African Americans, "Hoston's Shoes and Bootery."

In 1956, Dr. Harris earned her high school diploma from Carroll High School in Monroe, Louisiana, where she was a member of the English and spelling bee clubs and the basketball team. From 1956 until 1960, Dr. Harris attended Southern University, where she was active in the Methodist club, a co-founder of Gamma Sigma Sigma sorority, and captain of the drill team. Dr. Harris completed her education at Central State University in Ohio, where she earned her B.A. degree in psychology in 1962.

After her graduation, Dr. Harris worked in the selection division of the Peace Corps. From 1964 until 1970, Dr. Harris had a career in education, teaching second, fourth, fifth and sixth grades in Washington, D.C. public schools. From 1970 until 1972, Dr. Harris worked as a research associate for the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History. Dr. Harris earned her master's degree in history in 1972 and her Ph.D. degree in 1975 from Howard University.

Dr. Harris took on numerous roles in Washington, D.C. throughout her professional life. In 1975, Dr. Harris began teaching history at Federal City College, now known as the University of the District of Columbia. That same year she established a consulting firm, JOR Associates. From 1979 until 1980, Dr. Harris served as campaign manager for the Carter Mondale Re-election Campaign. In 1991, Dr. Harris was appointed director of educational affairs for Washington, D.C., where she remained for a year. For the next three years, Dr. Harris served as director of the Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Relations under Mayor Marion S. Barry, Jr; in 1998, she was

appointed city historian for Washington, D.C., the first person to hold the post; serving as the president of Carter G. Woodson's Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in Washington; and being appointed by Mayor Muriel Bowser to the D.C. Commission to Commemorate and Recognize the Honorable Marion S. Barry, Jr. She was also awarded a Southern University Alumni Federation Lifetime Achievement Award from the school in July of 2018.

Dr. Harris was a proud member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., an artist, and the author of *Black crusaders in History*, *Congress and Government: Teacher's Guide* and other books.

Our nation has lost a trailblazer, a champion for civil rights, and a woman of many firsts. Dr. Janette Hoston Harris, legacy will forever be a part of this nation's history and her dedication to justice embodies the spirit of the Civil Rights Movement. We cannot match the sacrifices made by Dr. Harris, but surely, we can try to match her sense of service. We cannot match Dr. Harris' courage, but we can strive to match her devotion.

Dr. Harris is survived by her husband, Rudolph Harris; their son, Rylan; and daughter, Junie.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Janette Hoston Harris.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMISSION  
OF FINE ARTS DISTRICT OF  
COLUMBIA HOME RULE ACT**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 13, 2018*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduced the Commission of Fine Arts District of Columbia Home Rule Act. This bill is necessary to prohibit the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) from exercising authority over non-federal property in the District of Columbia.

Under presidential executive orders (EOs) and federal law, the CFA has review authority for D.C.-owned parks and buildings, as well as certain private land in D.C. Under the relevant EOs, CFA has review authority for the design of D.C.-owned parks and buildings. Under the Shipstead-Luce Act, CFA has review authority for the design of private buildings in the District "adjacent to public buildings and grounds of major importance," such as Rock Creek Park and the Potomac riverfront. Under the Old Georgetown Act, the CFA has review authority for the design of private buildings in the part of Georgetown referred to as "Old Georgetown" in the act. The members of the CFA are appointed by the President.

The federal government, including the CFA, has no business in local land-use policies and decisions. Not only is the federal government's authority over D.C. buildings and private property anti-democratic, it also delays and increases the cost of public and private development in the District.

This is an important step to increase home rule for the District, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF COACH KAREN  
KLASSNER ON HER INDUCTION  
TO THE PENNSYLVANIA SPORTS  
HALL OF FAME**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 13, 2018*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor coach Karen Klassner, who was inducted to the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame on November 3, 2018. Klassner was among those honored during the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame held in Plains, PA.

Since 1972, Klassner has served as the head coach of the field hockey team at Wyoming Seminary. She has led her teams to win six state championships, six district championships, and ten league championships. Additionally, Sem has made twenty-eight district playoff appearances (after joining the PIAA in 1985) and 14 state tournament appearances. She also led her team to victory at the Moravian Tournament eight times, most recently in 2017. Her overall field hockey coaching record is 660-171-46.

Klassner's unparalleled leadership ability has been recognized throughout her career. She was named "Coach of the Year" seven times, named 2006 Developmental Coach of the Year by the United States Field Hockey Association, inducted into the National Field Hockey Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2009, inducted into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame in 2003, and named national coach of the year in field hockey by the National High School Coaches Association in 2009. She has also dedicated her time and expertise to various service positions, including chairing the PA All-State Selection Committee from 1998 to 2009 and serving as the president of PA State Field Hockey State Coaches Association from 1998 to 2009. In addition to coaching field hockey at Sem, she currently serves as a consultant for the Keystone State Games.

It is an honor to recognize Klassner's achievements and her impressive career at Wyoming Seminary, and it is fitting that she should be inducted as a member of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame. I join with the members of the Hall of Fame in recognizing Klassner's career and in celebrating her impact on Wyoming Seminary athletics for decades.

## RECOGNIZING RYAN TOPPER

**HON. JACKIE WALORSKI**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 13, 2018*

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the brave actions of Ryan Topper from Bremen.

Ryan is a student, a rising football star, and a lifesaver. Good instinct and determination tend to give people the opportunity to achieve, but for Ryan, these qualities also helped him change the course of his best friend's life.

One night, Ryan and friends were driving to a lake house for the evening. Ryan, driving ahead of his friends, realized their truck was

no longer behind him. He turned around to find that his friend's truck had skidded on ice and hit an embankment, crumpling the side of the truck and shattering the passenger window before coming to rest back in the middle of road. It was a miracle that only one person was seriously injured. Brock Meister would not have survived the next few moments without Ryan's bravery and quick thinking.

Ryan recognized immediately that he needed to keep his friend's neck in place until help arrived. As he held tight to Brock's head and neck, reassuring him and physically preventing him from moving, Ryan kept him calm by repeating the words, "My boy, Brock," and called 911. Ryan didn't leave his friend's side that night, and it kept him alive. He then helped him navigate the long, difficult road to recovery, making the two-and-a-half-hour drive to and from Indianapolis to be with his friend in between football commitments. It is truly an honor to represent young Hoosiers like Ryan who put their own needs aside to help others, and whose strength and compassion stand as a guiding light in our community. Ryan's natural leadership and strong will are surely just the foundation for the amazing future that lies ahead of him. I have no doubt he will go on to do great things and will continue to positively impact the world around him. Hoosiers will, continue to look up to his ability to seize opportunity and lead with kindness for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, Ryan Topper epitomizes the selflessness and readiness to help that are so valued in northern Indiana. He shows us what it means to be a Hoosier, an American, and, above all, a true friend. On behalf of Indiana's 2nd District, it is my honor to recognize his valiant actions.

HONORING HEIDI BENZONELLI-BURDEN

**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 13, 2018*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Heidi Benzonelli-Burden, who was honored as Humboldt County Citizen of the Year on October 20, 2018, an award she richly deserves.

Heidi Benzonelli-Burden's contributions to the Eureka community are exemplary. As program director for the Westside Community Building Initiative and president of the Westside Community Improvement Association, Ms. Benzonelli-Burden has been a driving force for the improved health and livability of Eureka's Westside. Ms. Benzonelli-Burden worked with these groups and law enforcement, code enforcement, and neighbors to address 30 chronic nuisance properties and 10 alleyways in West Eureka, and alleviate graffiti, trash, drug houses, and other hazards to clean up blight.

Among the Westside Association's greatest achievements has been the rehabilitation of the Jefferson Community Center and Park, which transformed a boarded-up elementary school into a thriving social center. The center hosts square dances, movie nights, a safety fair and more. Ms. Benzonelli-Burden was even the cook at the community center for its first two years, helping feed and nurture neigh-

borhood children. In 2017, she was awarded the Kiwanis of Henderson Center Non-Profit Businesswoman of the Year award.

Ms. Benzonelli-Burden attended Humboldt State University, earning a bachelor's degree in Environmental Resources Engineering and a master's degree in Business Administration with a focus on Strategic Sustainability. She is now a research analyst at Humboldt State's California Center for Rural Policy and putting her education to good use for the benefit of others.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing deep appreciation for Heidi Benzonelli-Burden's commitment to bettering her community and congratulating her on her service to the North Coast.

HONORING ANGIE THOMAS

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 13, 2018*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable author, Ms. Angie Thomas, who is a native of Jackson, Mississippi.

As a teen, Thomas indulged in the art of hip-hop while also publishing an article in Right-On Magazine. In 2011, she received a Bachelor's of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from Belhaven University located in Jackson.

In 2015, Thomas was awarded as the inaugural winner of the Walter Dean Myers Grant by The We Need Diverse Books Organization. In 2017, Thomas was recognized at the Mississippi Book Festival for inspiring young Mississippians that they too "can reach their dreams."

Thomas is the author of the No. 1 New York Times Bestseller novel, *The Hate U Give*, which pushes a powerful message of social justice and the issues facing African-Americans throughout this country. The novel was acquired by Balzer + Bray imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

The *Hate U Give* has received one of the highest amounts of starred reviews received for a young adult novel and will be published in over 20 countries. It has also been on a national young adult best-seller list for over 80 weeks.

In 2018, *The Hate U Give* was made into a movie and opened in select theaters on October 5th. By mid-October, it was showing nationwide. *The Hate U Give* movie is directed by George Tillman and stars actress Amandla Stenberg.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Angie Thomas for her dedication and tenacity to serving her community and desire to be an example for all.

LTC ANTHONY SOMOGYI TRIBUTE

**HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 13, 2018*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor LTC Anthony Somogyi, a native of Palisade, Colorado, for his unwavering commitment to this nation as he prepares for retirement.

LTC Somogyi graduated from Palisade High School in 1994, later attending the University of North Dakota on an Army ROTC Scholarship. After completing his degree in Aeronautical studies with an emphasis in rotary wing aviation and a minor in Military Science, he went on to attend Army flight school at Fort Rucker, Alabama.

LTC Somogyi began his military service when he was assigned to 1st Squadron, 10th U.S. Cavalry, 4th Infantry Division in Fort Hood. After a promotion, he was deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom where he had the rare opportunity as an Aviator to serve as a crewmember on an M-3 Cavalry Fighting Vehicle and established the Tactical Operations Center and Remote Retransmission Sites for the squadron.

Upon his return home, LTC Somogyi attended the Aviation Captain's Career Course at Fort Rucker, where his hard work earned him a place in the last class to attend resident Combined Arms Services Staff School at Fort Leavenworth. While there, he completed the Aviation Maintenance Manager's Course and the OH-58D Maintenance Test Pilot's Course on his way to Fort Polk. After six months, LTC Somogyi took command of F Troop, 4th Squadron, 6th U.S. Cavalry in time to move the unit to Fort Lewis. Once he established operations, he spent a year as Commander before leaving Active Duty and moving back to Colorado.

Most recently, he served as Commander at the High-Altitude ARNH Aviation Training Site. He trained students in power management and environmental flight techniques. In this capacity, he routinely conducted search and rescue missions in the mountainous regions of Colorado. LTC Somogyi's lifelong work has resulted in his receiving the Bronze Star, Air Medal, Army Achievement Medal, two Meritorious Service Medals, two Cavalry Spurs, and the Order of St. George.

LTC Somogyi has not only had a fulfilling professional life, but a rich personal life as well. He married his high school sweetheart, Korey, and they were blessed with two daughters, Noel and Andee. When he is not working, LTC Somogyi spends most of his time in the great outdoors, either hunting, camping or fishing with his loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, LTC Somogyi has dutifully served his nation for twenty years and his dedication will be remembered. It is my privilege to recognize him for the important work he has done throughout his life and I wish him all the best in his retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF ABIGAIL PECK ON HER INDUCTION TO THE PENNSYLVANIA SPORTS HALL OF FAME

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 13, 2018*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor athlete Abigail Peck, who was inducted to the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame on November 3, 2018. Peck was among those honored during the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame held in Plains, PA.