

were vulnerable and did not have a voice. May we honor his legacy each and every day by following in his footsteps.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
STEPHANIE MOGENSEN

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 5, 2018

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Stephanie Mogensen. Stephanie is a veteran case manager at the Jeanine Nicarico Children's Advocacy Center in Wheaton where she serves as an advocate for children who have been victimized by sexual abuse and severe psychical abuse.

Prior to joining the center, Stephanie worked in the Victim Witness Department of the DuPage County State's Attorney's Office. During that time, she realized she wanted to focus on helping children and making a difference in the families' lives. For the past 13 years, she has done exactly that while working at the Jeanine Nicarico Children's Advocacy Center. Stephanie is a champion for many of the 400 to 500 children victimized by sexual abuse and severe psychical abuse in DuPage County. She makes it her mission to monitor each child from the first phone call until the end of the criminal proceeding and in most cases, she continues to be a familiar face for the child and the family.

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin, whose office supervises the center, praised Stephanie stating, "To Stephanie, it's not just a job. She truly cares about these victims and that makes her so effective and important to the office. She's passionate. She loves her job and we're thankful she's here doing it." This is evident by the amount of thank-you letters she receives from victims and their families who were appreciative of the empathy and kindness she showed throughout the process. Stephanie has served the DuPage community admirably. She has been a strong leader and voice for those who suffered tremendous pain. Her long service to the victims and their families is truly commendable.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the service and dedication of Stephanie Mogensen.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND
LEGACY OF MRS. RECY TAYLOR

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 5, 2018

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Mrs. Recy Taylor, an extraordinary Alabamian whose story and fight for justice was an early catalyst of the Civil Rights Movement.

Mrs. Recy Corbitt Taylor was born on December 31, 1919, to a family of sharecroppers in Abbeville, Alabama. She cared for her six younger siblings after her mother died when she was 17.

On September 3, 1944, at the age of 24, Mrs. Taylor, a wife and mother to a 3-year old

daughter, was walking home from a church service at Rock Hill Holiness Church with a friend. A car full of young white men pulled up, and the men ordered Mrs. Taylor into the car at gunpoint. She was then blindfolded, brutally raped, and abandoned in the woods.

In the Jim Crow South, Mrs. Taylor and other black women who dared come forward were threatened, shamed, and harassed for speaking out. Despite being threatened by her perpetrators and local law enforcement, Mrs. Taylor decided to seek justice and tried to identify her rapists.

Because she spoke up, Mrs. Recy Taylor received death threats and her home was firebombed by white supremacists. As a result, she, her husband, and their young daughter moved in with her father and siblings the following day. Her younger siblings were no longer allowed to play in the front yard. According to reports, her father would sleep outside at night, watching over the family while cradling a shotgun for protection.

The strength and resolve Mrs. Taylor showed over 70 years ago should compel all of us to remain vigilant in seeking justice for all victims of sexual assault today. The courage being demonstrated today by victims of sexual violence is fueled, in part, by the bravery shown by Mrs. Recy Taylor and many other victims of sexual assault.

Like so many racially motivated rapes and crimes during the Jim Crow era, the perpetrators were never arrested. When a grand jury met in October 1944, no suspects in Mrs. Recy Taylor's case had been arrested so there was no police lineup for Mrs. Taylor to identify the perpetrators. The grand jury failed to indict any of the men linked to Mrs. Recy Taylor's assault.

Rosa Parks, who began her career as an anti-race activist, was called upon by the NAACP to investigate the case, determine why no arrests were made, and build public support for Mrs. Taylor. She was threatened and intimidated by the deputy sheriff when she came to Abbeville to interview Mrs. Taylor. Nevertheless, she persisted, later creating the "Alabama Committee for Equal Justice for Mrs. Recy Taylor" triggering a movement to seek justice. Word spread nationally about Mrs. Recy Taylor's case through the black press. Mrs. Parks spearheaded a letter writing campaign urging Alabama Governor Chauncey Sparks to investigate the crime further.

After additional pressure from activists like W. E. B. DuBois, Mary Church Terrell, and Langston Hughes, the Governor sent investigators to Abbeville. They found that the Sheriff had lied about arresting the men. Despite a confession by one of the men, a second grand jury refused to indict the men in February 1945.

Mrs. Recy Taylor's courage and the network of black women that came together to defend her built a foundation for the Montgomery Bus Boycott over a decade later. Every movement since from the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and 1960s to the Women's Marches in 2017 have been influenced by the determination of Mrs. Recy Taylor, Mrs. Rosa Parks, and so many women like them. Most notably, Mrs. Taylor's case has been the impetus for a movement to end impunity for sexual violence committed throughout history.

Mrs. Taylor's story gained renewed attention with the 2010 publication of a book by histo-

rian Danielle McGuire entitled, "At the Dark End of the Street: Black Women, Rape, and Resistance—a New History of the Civil Rights Movement From Rosa Parks to the Rise of Black Power."

The book prompted long-overdue apologies from the mayor of Abbeville, the county, and a strongly worded apology from the state of Alabama in 2011. The resolution, introduced by Rep. Dexter Grimsley in the state house and Senator Billy Beasley in the state senate, acknowledged, "the lack of prosecution for crimes committed against Recy Taylor by the government of the State of Alabama . . . was, and is, morally abhorrent and repugnant." The resolution went on to express "profound regret for the role played by the government of the State of Alabama in failing to prosecute the crimes." The resolution was formally presented to Mrs. Taylor on Mother's Day at the church where she had worshipped the night of her attack, now known as Abbeville Memorial Church of God in Christ.

Mrs. Taylor passed away on Thursday, December 28, 2017, just days shy of her 98th birthday.

Mrs. Taylor's story is a pivotal link in the ever evolving pursuit of justice for victims of sexual assault.

I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering and honoring an icon and an American treasure, Mrs. Recy Taylor. Her legacy continues to live on in the countless lives she touched and fuel justice for victims of sexual violence in all communities, especially for those who feel like they have no voice. May the blessing of God be with her family, including her brother, Mr. Robert Corbitt, two sisters, Mary Murry and Liffie Kinsey, granddaughter, and great-grandchildren, and friends as they celebrate her life.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF EVELYN
DESROSIER

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 5, 2018

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Evelyn Desrosiers, a resident of New Bedford, Massachusetts, who will turn 100 years young on January 12th.

A lifelong Massachusetts resident, Evelyn was born in Fairhaven and grew up in Free-town. Her father worked on a farm while her mother raised Evelyn and her siblings. After she attended grammar school, Evelyn was hired by the billing department at Hemingway Transport.

Evelyn has always been a committed member of her community. Through her dedicated involvement with St. Julie's Church in Dartmouth, she received the Marian Medal in 2013. She is also a member of the Legion of Mary. Evelyn has many talents and even played the violin in the New Bedford Symphony.

Today she enjoys spending time with her nephews Jim and William, grandnephew Adam, and grandnieces Angela and Elizabeth. She lives in Whaler's Cove in New Bedford and attributes her good health to eating well and having great genes.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Evelyn Desrosiers on this joyous occasion of her

100th birthday. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing her many more years of health and happiness.

**HONORING 50 YEARS OF MARDI
GRAS HIDDEN FIGURES: THE
COLOMBOS**

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 5, 2018

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of two prominent individuals of Carnival Season, Suzie and Anthony Colombo, for their tremendous contribution of costume-making. The Colombos will be celebrating their 50th anniversary of costume making this upcoming Mardi Gras season 2018.

Mr. Colombo first began designing costumes nearly five decades ago. He believes that the importance of a costume is to bring it to life as if it was telling a story, and that is exactly what Mr. Colombo executes with each headpiece he designs. Mr. Colombo has also been able to transcend from the original size of collars to much larger, ornate pieces. His dazzling designs have become very distinctive among krewes as they would gleam along the parade routes being worn by many notable clubs such as Zulu, Endymion, and Caesar just to name a few.

Working alongside Mr. Colombo is his daughter, Suzie Colombo. Suzie would often joke about her father's concept of size when it comes to his head piece designs due to them constantly getting bigger and bigger. Suzie is known as the brain in the family business. She puts together costume design ideas and executes them thoroughly. From the head piece on down to the shoes, she has it all planned out and ready within a year.

The designs created by this father and daughter team have caught the attention of many and contributed to the excitement of Mardi Gras. Mr. Colombo, who is now 83 years of age, is often asked how long he plans to continue this business. In response, he'll always reply, "For as long as God allows me to."

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to celebrate the legacy of Mr. Anthony and Ms. Suzie Colombo, two Mardi Gras legends.

**CONGRATULATING BOBBY HAGER
ON BEING NAMED TO TEAM USA**

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 5, 2018

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to recognize Bobby Hager, an ex-

ceptionally talented young man from the Sixth District of Illinois. Bobby was recently selected to compete for Team Illinois in the 2018 Special Olympics USA National Games.

As the first student ever chosen from Barrington High School, Bobby is one of the 46 Special Olympic athletes from Illinois selected to compete in the Special Olympics USA National Games. Bobby will join with more than 4,000 athletes and coaches from across the United States in Seattle for the games.

After winning a gold medal at the district tournament in May followed with a bronze medal at the statewide competition in June, Bobby has earned his way to Seattle. He will be competing in the track and field portion of the Olympics. His event is throwing a softball for distance. His athletic prowess does not end there. He is also a member of the Special Olympics basketball team and has been active in the Special Olympics since the 5th grade. Bobby serves as a role model to all those with a dream and I look forward to following his progress come the Olympics in July.

Bobby has immense potential and a strong work ethic. I have no doubt these traits will serve him well this summer. Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Bobby Hager for his remarkable achievement.