

White House Staff in 1977. In 1983, served as Director of the Office of Citizens & Community Affairs under former Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young and on the national board of a National Anti-Poverty Rural Development Agency.

Dr. Samuels was not only a dedicated public servant but also a strong and passionate innovator and activist who fought tirelessly to preserve women's history and made sure that the achievements of African-American women were properly recognized. She founded the Georgia Coalition of Black Women, Inc. in 1981; advocated for the creation of the Georgia Commission on Women in 1991 and the Atlanta Commission on Women in 2001; and was the co-founder of the Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda and Women Flying High, LLC, a 100 percent female-owned business enterprise that is dedicated to increasing women's share of public and private sector contracts, in 2005. She also founded "The Ballot Power" of Women Voters Lecture Series and the Women in Government Internship and produced "Sisterhood Voices" on the Air Radio Show. She helped to launch the careers of several African-American woman leaders from rural Georgia counties who would go on to serve as mayors, commissioners, and judges.

Over the course of her life, she served as on a variety of boards and in a number of organizations at the local, state, and national levels. She also received numerous awards and commendations, including "Keys to the City" of several cities, including her hometown of Forsyth, Georgia. Governor Joe Frank Harris appointed her to the State Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission and appointed her as the first African American to serve on the Georgia State Election Board. She was subsequently reappointed to the King Commission by Governors Zell Miller and Roy Barnes.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing to help others?'" Dr. Samuels undoubtedly lived by this philosophy as she committed a prodigious amount of time and love in service to others and shared her enthusiasm and wisdom to better those around her. Moreover, The great Agricultural chemist George Washington Carver once said that, "It does not matter how much money you have in the bank; it does not matter what kind of car you drive; it does not matter how big the house is that you live in; it does not matter what type of profession you might be involved in; what matters in this life and what we all will be judged by is what we have done in this life as far as service to humanity." Rita served humanity well and carried out God's purpose for her life.

Rita leaves behind her loving husband of many years, Stanley, and a host of family and friends who will miss her deeply. She was a longtime member of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

On a personal note, Rita was a dear friend of longstanding and valued supporter. I will miss the very sage counsel that she imparted to me over the years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife Vivian and me, along with the more than 730,000 people of the Second Congressional District, in paying tribute to Dr. Rita Jackson Samuels, for her legacy of service to the state of Georgia, and extending our deepest condolences to Rita's family and friends. We pray

that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
WILLIAM THOMAS SLYE, JR.,
USA, RET.

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Lieutenant Colonel William Thomas Slye, Jr., USA, Ret., who became an angel on February 28, 2018. LTC Slye's dedication to the United States Army, his nation, and his beloved family mark a man whose life was devoted to service to others.

A native of Washington, D.C., LTC Slye enlisted in the Navy in 1953, where he served as an aircraft engine mechanic and found his passion for aviation. While the Navy could not offer him a venue to progress in his flying aspirations, he soon enlisted in the Army to pursue their flight training program.

LTC Slye's skills did not go unnoticed and he was assigned to the Presidential Flight Detachment where he flew in the Presidential Helicopter unit for both Presidents Johnson and Nixon. His valiant efforts to keep our nation's leaders safe during tumultuous times were next to none and will never be forgotten. Following a 28-year Army career that included three tours in Vietnam, LTC Slye retired in 1981 and settled in Belton, Texas.

Along with being a skilled and decorated pilot, LTC Slye was a true family man. He married the love of his life, Wanda Rose Bridges, in 1957 and went on to raise three beautiful children: Mike, Teri, and Sandie. He lived a full and inspirational life and was actively involved in his church, Knights of Columbus, and community.

LTC Slye's dedication to both nation and family reflect the best values we hold dear in Central Texas. I salute his devotion to our highest ideals and join his loved ones in mourning his loss.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
COMMISSIONER RODNEY ELLIS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Former State Senator, current Harris County Commissioner, and my dear friend, Rodney Ellis for receiving an Alumni Award from Texas Southern University. The award is given to outstanding alumni who typify the TSU tradition of excellence through personal and professional accomplishment and/or community service. This is the second year the award is given.

Rodney holds a Bachelor's of Science Degree from Texas Southern University, a Master's Degree in Public Affairs from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas, and a Law Degree from the University of Texas School of Law. Commis-

sioner Ellis also studied at Xavier University in New Orleans and the London School of Economics. Before his election to the Texas Senate in 1990, Rodney Ellis served three terms on the Houston City Council as well as Chief of Staff to the late United States Congressman Mickey Leland.

He, then, went on to serve in the Texas State Senate for more than 25 consecutive years and earned the respect of his colleagues and constituents for his dedicated leadership on civil rights, criminal justice, economic development, education, environmental policy, and workforce development. On November 8, 2016, Rodney Ellis was elected Harris County Commissioner for Precinct One, where he serves approximately 1.1 million people on a daily basis.

Commissioner Ellis is a strong supporter and graduate of Texas Southern University. For 25 years, Commissioner Ellis represented Texas Senate District 13, which TSU resides in. Recently, Commissioner Ellis has contributed over \$15 million in a partnership with the City of Houston to improve the roads around the University.

At his core, Commissioner Ellis believes that our government should ensure that all people, regardless of who they are, have equitable opportunity and ability to build a better future for themselves and for their family. As Harris County Commissioner, he is committed to this ideal by providing quality and accessible services and programs that enrich the lives of people in Precinct One and fighting for reforms that will benefit all Harris County residents.

Amidst all of his many accolades and achievements, he attributes being a husband to Mrs. Licia Green-Ellis and father to his four children as his greatest honor.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Commissioner Ellis for receiving the Alumni Award and recognize all who organize and contribute to Texas Southern University's commitment to excellent education. I ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating Commissioner Ellis on his many years of service and honor his legacy and inspiration he has given to the people he has had the privilege of serving.

IN RECOGNITION OF HURON
VALLEY PACE'S NEW FACILITY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Huron Valley PACE as they break ground on their new facility. They have served Michigan's seniors for years and will expand their services in this new facility.

Huron Valley PACE was established by two nonprofits, the United Methodist Retirement Communities and the Area Agency on Aging 1B, in order to provide an alternative to nursing home care. The organization's mission is to allow seniors to age with dignity and remain independent in their own homes, and every doctor and nurse at PACE seeks to live out that principle every day. Huron Valley PACE is based out of Ypsilanti, Michigan and serves seniors in Washtenaw County, as well as Monroe, Oakland, Livingston, and Wayne Counties. PACE serves all Michigan adults

age 55 or older who have ongoing healthcare needs and provides the services covered by Medicare and Medicaid as well as tailoring plans to suit individual needs of seniors as seen fit by facility staff. Seniors can expect to have their medical and supportive needs met when they visit PACE, and the Ypsilanti facility houses a medical clinic as well as various recreation areas.

The facility currently has four pillars of patient service including: medical, wellness, social, and support. They are known in our Michigan community for their well-rounded care and individualized service. The \$1 million dollar grant they received will allow Huron Valley PACE to double the size of their facility and greatly increase their patient capacity. This will allow for Michigan's increasing senior population to be provided with PACE's top-notch service and allow for the elderly to age with dignity and independence. We are grateful for the exemplary service provided at Huron Valley PACE and look forward to seeing its continued development and effectiveness as it grows in size and capacity.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Huron Valley PACE as they break ground on their facility additions and greatly expand their current care to southeast Michigan's seniors. The organization has made a significant impact on the well-being of seniors through its medical and social services.

HONORING HOUSTON'S CENTENARIANS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, down in Houston, Texas, you can find several remarkable individuals celebrating huge milestones this year. Clarewood House Senior Community is home to 11 centenarians. Mr. Speaker, centenarians, simply put, are people who live to see over 100 years of age. Combined between the 11 residents, that totals over 1,000 years of life. In fact, the Clarewood House is believed to have the most people, 100 years and older, living at one address. These incredible folks have survived and seen everything, from the Great Depression to last year's horrific hurricane.

These centenarians come from all walks of life. They include a World War II veteran, retired teachers, and women who supported their families and businesses all throughout their lives.

Recently, Clarewood House threw a huge celebration in honor of the residents who are marking their 100th birthday. It was an opportunity to honor their lives and celebrate a milestone not many are able to see through. Mr. Speaker, here are the names of the living legends turning 100 years or older this year at Clarewood House: Margaret Kilty, Helen Brown, Byrom Wehner, Charles Omar Logan, Lena Brenner, George McMahan, Margaret Shearer, Inez Heggie, Laura "Wini" Robertson, Bettye Drisdale, and Virginia Harrell.

It is an honor to recognize these extraordinary Texans today. Whether it's just good genes or working out and eating healthy, reaching 100 years old is a truly remarkable feat. I hope they continue to see many more

years of life and want to wish each and every one of them a happy birthday.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE SANTA CRUZ YACHT CLUB

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Santa Cruz Yacht Club as they celebrate their 90th anniversary. For 90 years, the Santa Cruz Yacht Club has dedicated itself to the enrichment of our community by supporting yachting and sailing.

The Santa Cruz Yacht Club was established in 1928 by local businessmen Bruce Sharp, Charlie Towne, and Sam Leask Jr. Despite low membership and meager availability for meeting venues in the yacht's early years, the club persisted and soon held their first sponsored race from Long Beach to San Francisco.

Over the next 20 years, the Santa Cruz Yacht Club grew into a community institution. In 1938, they began hosting the premier local sailing event, the Windjammers Race, which remains popular today. In the 1970s, the Santa Cruz Yacht Club was at the forefront of the ultra light displacement boat (ULDB) movement, which revolutionized yacht racing. In the late 1970s, Santa Cruz Yacht Club member Bill Lee's ULDB *Merlin* shattered the Trans Pacific Race record, signaling to the rest of the world that Santa Cruz ULDBs could compete at the highest level. *Merlin* held that record for 20 years.

To this day, the Santa Cruz Yacht Club hosts numerous local, regional, national, and international regattas. The Santa Cruz Yacht Club also serves the community by providing a variety of sailing programs and scholastic programs for students of all ages. Additionally, the club offers educational materials on accident prevention and promotes environmentally friendly practices to ensure a clean environment for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the Santa Cruz Yacht Club for their service to the central coast of California.

IN HONOR OF THE SESQUICENTEN- NIAL OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CONNECTICUT'S NAVY IN- STALLATION

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of the Sesquicentennial of Connecticut's Navy installation. On April 11, 1868, one hundred and fifty years ago today, a Deed of Gift from the State of Connecticut and the City of New London was signed, conveyed, and presented to Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles, himself a native of Glastonbury, Connecticut.

The suitability of New London Harbor as a possible site for an established Navy base or depot had been discussed as early as 1799,

but it was not until 1862 when a naval committee began considering possible locations for such a base. Instead of choosing a competing location, southeastern Connecticut's Congressman Augustus Brandegee succeeded in inserting language into the 1867 Naval Appropriations Act which directed the Secretary of the Navy "to accept a deed of gift when offered by the State of Connecticut." Following a scouting visit by Commodore J.P. McIntstry, the land along the eastern side of the Thames River, straddling the towns of Groton and Ledyard, was selected as the desired location. The local New London Navy Yard Committee, led by John Rogers Bolles, purchased all or portions of three large farms and other adjoining parcels to compose that initial gift of land.

The footprint of that nascent naval base was only 5,200 feet long and 700 feet wide, but the base slowly expanded as it served in the dry-docking of ships and then as a coaling station. Between 1868 and 1912, the New London Navy Yard supported a diverse range of missions, including berthing inactive Civil War-era ironclad warships and refueling naval vessels traveling in New England waters.

The installation's beginnings as the "Home of the Submarine Force" can be traced to 1900, when the Navy acquired its first submarine, USS *Holland*, for a sum of \$160,000. In 1912, Congress rejected the Navy's proposal to close the New London Navy Yard, following an impassioned effort by eastern Connecticut Congressman Edwin W. Higgins, one of my predecessors in this office. During that debate, he stated that the "action proposed is not only unjust but unreasonable and unsound as a military proposition." He was right, and thankfully he prevailed in ensuring that the base remained open. New London then became the homeport for six submarines in October 1915, as well as the first ship built specifically as a submarine tender, USS *Fulton*, which arrived that November.

One-hundred and fifty years after its humble beginnings, Naval Submarine Base New London has grown to occupy more than 680 acres along the east side of the Thames River, with more than 160 major facilities, 15 nuclear fast-attack submarines, and more than 70 tenant commands and activities, including the Submarine Learning Center, Naval Submarine School, the Naval Submarine Medical Research Laboratory, the Naval Undersea Medical Institute, and the newly established Undersea Warfighting Development Center.

Every day, our deployed undersea Sailors conduct intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance missions along coastlines across the globe, track the movements of adversary navies, and deter threats to our homeland. While SUBASE New London has grown in size and importance, and the technology aboard submarines has evolved, the men and women who crew these vessels have constantly served with Honor, Courage, and Commitment.

In 1912, Congressman Higgins told his colleagues in Congress that "Connecticut stands ready, as she always has, to bear her part of the burdens of the national defense." This remains as true today as it was in 1912 or even in 1868. My state is proud to be home of our nation's "first and finest" submarine base, and I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring this important milestone for Connecticut, for our nation, and for all those who serve, and