

## TRIBUTE TO MARY LEE ALLEN

**HON. VAL BUTLER DEMINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2018*

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments and life of Mary Lee Allen as she celebrates her 10th birthday this year.

Mary Lee Allen was born on May 15, 1918 in Branchville, South Carolina. Throughout her adult life, Mrs. Allen has given back to her community, neighbors, and church. She is known as a proud local small business owner and mentor to countless young women.

Mrs. Allen attended public school in New York and went on to earn a degree from cosmetology school. After she moved to Florida, she continued her education, taking advanced classes in hair and beauty.

On May 7, 1938, she married the late William J. Allen. The couple moved to Winter Park, Florida, and quickly became involved in their community. Mrs. Allen took the bold step of opening her own business—Mary Lee Beauty Shop. Throughout the shop's years of business, Mrs. Allen provided constant advice and support to young employees.

Mrs. Allen has been a member of Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church for over 60 years, and joined the church's Senior Missionary Society and Senior Choir. She also helped found the 'Ideal Women Club.' Over the years, she has received numerous awards and recognitions for her outstanding community service, and has earned the love and friendship of her neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have Mrs. Mary Lee Allen as a constituent, and I extend best wishes to her on her 100th birthday.

COMMENDING JESSENIA  
FILOMENO**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2018*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to commend Jessenia Filomeno, a young Latina who has dedicated her life to volunteerism and community service. She is a role model who selflessly mentors at risk youth and helps them achieve academic success.

She is a graduate from Brooklyn's Pratt Institute where she earned a Bachelor degree in Architecture. She has served as a young Ambassador to Brooklyn representing Puerto Rico. Since her youth and for the past 20 years, Ms. Filomeno has been a member of the Brooklyn Three Kings Day Parade Inc. where she coordinates the distribution of more than 1,000 toys for underserved children.

Jessenia is also the CEO of Filomeno Family Awards Foundation, Inc. A foundation who mentors and monitors the progress of the students they support from kindergarten to college. Jessenia and the Foundation annually host a gala where students are awarded scholarships and recognition for their accomplishments. When Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico, Jessenia organized a community relief effort to help the children and families impacted by this disaster.

What is amazing is that Jessenia suffers from chronic Lupus disease and yet she manages to volunteer and help the underserved and most vulnerable in our community. Jessenia is proud to bring hope and a smile to all her initiatives. She states that she is very fortunate to be 35 years of age and able to live and contribute to society.

Please join me in saluting Jessenia Filomeno and the Filomeno Family Awards Foundation Inc. on the celebration of its annual gala held on March 31, 2018.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF MR. CYRUS "RUSS" M.  
JOLLIVETTE**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2018*

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my very dear friend, Mr. Cyrus "Russ" M. Jollivette. I was fortunate to have known Russ for many years. His untimely passing is a true loss for the State of Florida.

Russ was born on August 5, 1946 in Miami, Florida to Frances Reeves Jollivette Chambers and Cyrus M. Jollivette, Sr. He is the brother of two sisters, Regina Jollivette Frazier and Cleo Leontine Jollivette.

He held a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from C.W. Post College, a Masters of Business Administration in Management from Long Island University, and a Juris Doctor from the University of Miami's (UM) School of Law.

Russ dedicated himself to the advancement of higher education, health access and services, and public service. While well-known for his 24 years of service at UM, and his 12 years of service at Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) of Florida, there are many other organizations, educational institutions, nonprofits, and community groups that Russ started, chaired, or directed.

Russ committed himself to creating and supporting educational opportunities for students in Florida and beyond, at colleges and universities from the University of Miami to St. Thomas University, Florida A&M University, Florida International University, University of Florida, University of North Florida, Barry University, Jacksonville University, Eckerd College, and community colleges throughout the state.

He also played a major role in the world of health, seeking support for several hospitals and medical schools, and especially children's hospitals and schools of nursing throughout Florida. He had served as the Chairman of the Dade Public Health Trust, and always sought support for the Children's Hospital at the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Medical Center, the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, part of the University of Miami Health System, as well as cancer centers throughout Florida.

Additionally, Russ played a role in the world of philanthropy. He directed relations for the UM Foundation for decades and directed the BCBS Florida Blue Foundation. He was responsible for hundreds of millions of dollars reaching education, health, community, and nonprofit initiatives.

Russ was a special leader in the world of higher education and public service, and a leader in the African American community. Everywhere he went, he made a positive impact on those around him.

Fond memories of Russ will forever remain with his daughter Lynn Jollivette Johns, and his two beautiful grandchildren, Richard Franklin II and Lauren Marie.

Mr. Speaker, I was truly honored to have known Russ and to call him my friend. He was kind and generous person, who was always giving back. I know that Russ' spirit and loving memory will always live on. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends during this extremely difficult time. He will be dearly missed.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. EVAN H. JENKINS**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2018*

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 162; YEA on Roll Call No. 163; NAY on Roll Call No. 164; and YEA on Roll Call No. 165.

HONORING WADE THOMAS  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**HON. JARED HUFFMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2018*

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Wade Thomas Elementary School in Marin County for its recognition on May 3, 2018 as a 2018 California Distinguished School by the California Department of Education. Chosen for its exemplary high performance, as measured by state and national assessments, Wade Thomas Elementary School was one of 287 schools to attain this honor statewide. This highly competitive award reflects outstanding achievement and the highest caliber of professional service, family commitment, and community engagement.

With 412 students across six grades, Wade Thomas Elementary School offers comprehensive educational programs that academically challenge and instill a joy of learning in its students while ensuring that all children have the skills and knowledge to reach their full potential.

Mr. Speaker, this hard-earned distinction reflects true community success. From the students and their families, to the staff and administrators, and the extended community, Wade Thomas Elementary School has developed an education model for the state and the nation: empowering today's students to be tomorrow's problem-solvers, inventors, and pioneers. Please join me in congratulating Wade Thomas Elementary School on this impressive achievement.

RECOGNIZING THE ROCKFORD AUBURN HIGH SCHOOL QUIZ BOWL TEAM ON BEING RANKED 16TH IN THE WORLD

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2018*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Rockford Auburn High School Quiz Bowl Team for being ranked 16th on the list of the top 100 quiz bowl teams in the world. The Rockford Auburn High School team is advised by Coach Elizabeth Zorn and comprised of students Ethan Strombeck, Morad Suliman, Lily Chavez, Leif Verace and Kodai Speich.

Quiz bowl is a challenging academic competition, where high school students are quizzed on a variety of subjects ranging from science and literature to history and mathematics. I would like to commend the Rockford Auburn High School students on all of their hard work this year, and recognize the strong leadership of Coach Elizabeth Zorn.

Mr. Speaker, once again I would like to congratulate the Rockford Auburn High School Quiz Bowl Team for being ranked one of the top 100 quiz bowl teams in the world. Their dedication to academic excellence makes me especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District, and I wish them the best of luck in future competitions.

TRIBUTE TO NATHAN CONYERS

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2018*

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Nathan Conyers a veteran, media professional, publisher, entrepreneur, activist, mentor, faith leader and trailblazer. Nathan Conyers passed away on April 27, 2018 at the age of 72 years.

Nathan Conyers was a South Carolina native and was the youngest of seven children. He attended public school in Paxville, SC in Clarendon County. The Conyers family would later move to Sumter, SC, where Nathan graduated from Lincoln High School in 1964.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army and after completing basic and advanced training in communications, he was sent to Germany where he served for the duration of his military career until being honorably discharged. After his military service Nathan Conyers relocated to Atlanta, Georgia graduated from Clark College (now Clark Atlanta University) where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science. He held down full time employment while attending college; he worked at Time Magazine's Atlanta bureau for 6 years. He was quite industrious; attending classes at Clark in the morning, working at the Times in the afternoon and studying at night.

Nathan Conyers relocated to Milwaukee soon and found work with The Milwaukee Community Journal as a writer and reporter. Nathan Conyers also worked for State Senator Monroe Swan, Wisconsin's first African American State Senator. He served as a legislative aide during a nearly 10 year tenure utilizing his strong journalism and political skills.

In 1981, Conyers joined forces with Mrs. Johnson, local realtor Luther Golden, and Lynda Jackson, to establish a bi-weekly newspaper entitled The Christian Times devoted to church news within the city's African American faith community. The paper expanded to cover more general community news and was renamed The Milwaukee Times Weekly Newspaper within the year, while The Christian Times remains as a standing feature section to this day. He opened the first Econoprint franchise in Wisconsin owned by an African American.

In 1985, the Milwaukee Times publishing team launched the annual Black Excellence Awards program as a way to pay tribute to the good works of ordinary people from Milwaukee's black community who were accomplishing extraordinary things, yet going unnoticed. To date, nearly 1,000 black Milwaukeeans have been named as Black Excellence Awards honorees.

Nathan Conyers promoted education of youth and at the third Black Excellence Awards program in 1988 assisted his co-founder, Mrs. Louvenia Johnson in launching The Louvenia Johnson Journalism Scholarship Fund. While the scholarship began to assist college-bound high school graduates to pursue careers in print and broadcast journalism, it has expanded to offer financial support to graduating high school seniors seeking a degree in any major. To date, the 501c3 non-profit, charitable organization has awarded more than half a million dollars to area students through the scholarship fund.

Nathan believed in promoting journalism for youth, the newspaper sponsored The Milwaukee Times Weekly Newspaper High School Journalism Workshop. This internship program beginning in 1991 operated for three years. The program gave area students hands-on, paid experience in news writing, editing, photojournalism, printing and publishing skills.

Nathan Conyers believed in economic development, job creation and giving back to the community. In fact, The Milwaukee Times Weekly Newspaper and its parent company, NCON Publishing and Printing Company has been a prolific creator of jobs within Milwaukee's central city for more than three decades. Further, he served as an advisor or board member to many community organizations including: the interdenominational faith group Pastors United; the Milwaukee Chapter of Operation PUSH; and Independence First, an advocacy organization for people with disabilities, Discovery World, Milwaukee Urban League, the NAACP Milwaukee Branch, and Miller (Brewing) Ride for the Arts.

Nathan was the beloved husband for 35 years of educator, Lynda Jackson Conyers and the loving father of daughters Morgan and Deloris. As a man of faith, he and his family attended Community Baptist Church of Greater Milwaukee. He leaves a strong legacy of leadership for all people to model.

Mr. Speaker, Nathan was my friend. I am blessed to have worked with him on many projects that assisted the community. Also on personal level, he and his wife Lynda, have been so helpful to me and my family as we grappled with the loss of family members. They were both so patient, thoughtful and kind. Nathan devoted his life to serving the community with a positive spirit. Milwaukee and Wisconsin have been made better as a

result of his service to the 4th Congressional District. I urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in a salute to the late Nathan Conyers.

HONORING ENCUESTRO HOME HEALTH AIDE PROGRAM

**HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2018*

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Encuentro's Home Health Aide Program and the 24 graduates of the spring 2018 class.

Encuentro is a New Mexico organization that provides high quality adult education to immigrants through a variety of programs including the Workforce and Small Business Development Initiative. This program provides immigrants with supportive services in addition to education and training in order to support meaningful career development. In January of 2016, they introduced the Home Health Aide program as part of this initiative in order to train and support immigrants to be employed in the fast-growing home health care industry.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the 24 members of the spring 2018 class on their completion of the Home Health Aide Program. I wish them well as they embark on this new and exciting journey. They have taken it upon themselves to study and earn a certificate in a skill that makes our communities better and helps people live healthier and more productive lives. It is their story that keeps true the idea that our country is a place of opportunity.

Over the last 15 weeks these individuals have sacrificed their time to complete the course and the clinical work needed to not just meet, but to exceed the state's training requirements for Personal Care Attendants and Home Health Aides. With their new certification, they are now able to provide care to older adults and individuals with disabilities who need extra support to live independently. I know firsthand how tough of a job this is but also how fulfilling it is.

Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my gratitude to the Encuentro Home Health Aide Program and my congratulations to the spring 2018 class. I wish them the best of luck in all their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER NORRIS

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2018*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jennifer Norris. She will be presented with the Appreciation Award from the Salvation Army at their annual dinner on May 9, 2018.

Jennifer is the Director of Recreational Ministries and oversees the Basketball and Day Camp activities at Citadel. She will soon be an officer in the Salvation Army.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Jennifer Norris for receiving this outstanding award and for her continued commitment to making her community better. I am proud to represent her, and