

operated over 5,000 low-income rental apartments in 27 developments in the City of Buffalo. He was a Capital Programs Manager for the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR), and the Executive Director of Kensington-Bailey Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. His extensive public service has extended to volunteer leadership on the following boards: Rental Assistance Corporation of Buffalo; Friends of the School of Architecture and Planning at SUNY at Buffalo; Erie County Commission on Homelessness; Bailey-Amherst District Management Association and the Downtown Neighborhood Development Corporation.

To all who know him or know of him, worked with him or at times, worked against him, there is one thing we can all agree on, Mike put his community first. His hard-won reputation as a community organizer, neighborhood advocate, housing activist and all-around agitator has earned him our respect and gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, as family, friends and colleagues join in "Larkinville" to acknowledge his many accomplishments on June 4, I add my appreciation for Michael K. Clarke's friendship, leadership and legacy of making a real difference in the lives of those who live in and love the City of Buffalo.

LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL LADY PANTHERS—2018 STATE SOFTBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in Liberty High School history, the Lady Panthers Softball team is the Texas UIL State Class 4A Softball Champions. On Saturday afternoon, they defeated the Vernon Lady Lions in Austin with a score of 3–1. Congratulations to the Liberty High School Softball Team and the City of Liberty.

Liberty's rich history of rugged Texas pioneers who settled near the Trinity River spans more than 180 years. Today, Liberty continues to live up to its rich legacy and community spirit. Liberty is home to Liberty Independent School District which provides outstanding educational opportunities for students. But Liberty was missing one thing, a team State Champion. Jerry Michalsky, sports editor with local newspaper *The Vindicator*, has been a sports writer for over 24 years and never been able to cover a State Champion. His dream came true this past weekend.

Liberty County radio station KSHN 99.9 FM streamed the game live from Austin. The one and only, passionate, Bill Buchanan gave a play by play for fans who were unable to make the trek to Austin. My friend and past Liberty Church of Christ preacher, Jonathan Sanford (now announcer for the San Antonio Spurs), was the announcer at McCombs Field. He gave the play by play live on Saturday. Mary Anne Campbell, President of the Liberty Dayton Area Chamber, kept the fans back at home up to date with her Facebook postings. Folks in Liberty rallied behind a young team of girls who made championship history one game at a time.

For the last 13 years, Liberty High School Head Coach Karen Slack has dreamed of a

State championship team. She genuinely cares for her players and wanted to see Liberty relevant when it came to softball. Her team's record is impressive. In an interview earlier this week, Coach Slack said, "These girls have no fear in them at all and this stage never even bothered them." Coach Slacks' passion along with Assistant Joe Slack and Katherine McAdams will continue to guide the Lady Panthers far beyond a State title. The leadership of a coach not only improves an athlete's performance but works to instill values of hard work and discipline. The community is proud of Coach Slack for all her accomplishments as a coach and a leader.

Congrats to Liberty High School's State Championship team: Jo McGinnis, Mikaelah Burkland, Bailey Webb, Kennedy Evans, Kamryn Turner, Abbie Knepper, Molly Barnette, Jaylen Prichard, Karli Beam, Baylee Chandler, Sarah Lopez, Kara Cannon, Harley Davis, Abby Phillips, and Kaci West.

Saturday evening, hundreds of fans decked out in black and gold, waving flags and noise makers, welcomed the Lady Panthers home. The Lady Panthers were escorted to the Liberty County line from Austin by the Liberty County Sheriff's Office. Dayton Police Department picked up the team at the Dayton City limits then Liberty Police Department picked them up at the Dayton-Liberty City limits. They were escorted all the way to the pavilion behind City Hall in downtown Liberty. The outpouring of support from the City of Liberty and surrounding communities was in true fashion of Panther Pride.

Way to go Panthers.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF MR. SANDY CROFT

HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Mr. Sandy Croft after 34 years of dedicated service to the Pleasant Ridge School District and the community of Nevada County.

Born in Pasadena, California in 1958, Sandy spent time in Santa Barbara, and Newport Beach, before eventually settling down in Grass Valley in 1969. He started school in the Pleasant Ridge School District in third grade—the same school district he will retire from as a teacher this year. Graduating from Nevada Union High School in 1977, he then attended Westmont College. Less than a year later, tragedy struck his family when his older brother passed away. He moved back home to be with his mother shortly afterwards. Not willing to give up on school, Sandy continued his education closer to home at Sierra College. Soon after, he received his secondary teaching credential in Social Science and English at Sacramento State. He went on to receive credentials in both Physical Education and Industrial Arts.

Sandy is not only a successful, dedicated, and driven individual, but he's also an avid outdoorsman. Growing up in rural Grass Valley, he'd often explore the old gold mines and dig for remnants of Native American artifacts. In high school, Sandy was a hunter, a fisher-

man, and a star tennis player—which he continues to play recreationally to this day.

In 1979, Sandy married his high school sweetheart, Lynn Baker, and they will be celebrating 38 years of Marriage on June 9th. Sandy and Lynn together have three children—Lindsey, Benjamin, and Hayley—as well as two grandchildren.

Of everything Sandy has accomplished, his greatest love was to teach in the same school district he attended as a child and to share his love for history by taking students on trips to Washington D.C. and New York City every year.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Sandy Croft for his commitment and service to the youth and community of Nevada County.

CONGRATULATING MARSHA SMITH FOR RECEIVING THE LIFETIME HUMANITARIAN AWARD AT THE 2018 GOVERNOR'S SERVICE AWARDS

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate Marsha J. Smith for receiving the Lifetime Humanitarian Award at the 2018 Governor's Service Awards. Through her exceptional leadership and steadfast devotion to her community, Sue has become an indispensable part of Michigan's First District.

The Lifetime Humanitarian Award is given annually by the Michigan Community Service Commission to individuals who demonstrate a "lifelong commitment to community involvement and volunteer service." They have shown a "tremendous passion for helping others" and are well-known for their exceptional impact in their community and state. Few are as deserving of this honor as Marsha Smith. In her 24 years as the executive director of Rotary Charities of Traverse City, Marsha's leadership has helped the organization provide more than \$58 million worth of grants and transform Northern Michigan.

Marsha was also instrumental in forming the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, which has led the acquisition of over 40,000 acres of land and 124 miles of coastline for environmental protection. Before her work with Rotary Charities, Marsha was involved in the founding of the Women's Resource Center in Traverse City, which offers support for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Marsha's tireless devotion to public service has touched the lives of countless members of her community, and the impact of her work in her community cannot be overstated.

Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Marsha Smith for her decades of service to Northern Michigan and congratulate her once again for receiving the Lifetime Humanitarian Award. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a dedicated individual. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Marsha all the best in her future endeavors.

ROLLING THUNDER

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, each Memorial Day, families all over the nation plan their weekend barbecues and look forward to enjoying a long weekend. But despite the festivities, many of these folks don't remember why we have the day off of work, and why we celebrate this national holiday.

But for the members of Rolling Thunder, in Houston, Texas, there is no question. Each year, they join together to help remind Americans across the nation of just why it is that we celebrate Memorial Day.

Rolling Thunder is a group of patriots who have made it their mission to honor our military heroes by bringing awareness through a motorcycle demonstration in Washington, D.C. While many members are veterans, not all are; some are just patriotic Americans who wish to do their part. They unite together to demand accountability for our POWs and MIAs to be identified and brought home.

In 1987, a group of Vietnam Veterans gathered together to discuss the thousands of reported sightings of Americans still living in captivity. They were disturbed by the neglect from our government. So, they decided to do something to force the government and media to acknowledge the horrific abandonment of our men and women overseas. After much brainstorming, the veterans came up with a unique idea. They began reaching out to family, friends, fellow veterans, and advocates to assemble a group of patriots willing to stand up for our soldiers.

In 1988, on Memorial Day, 2,500 men and women rode to our Nation's Capital on their motorcycles. Decked out in leather, wearing shades and bandanas, waving Old Glory, and riding 500 plus pounds of steel, they were a terrifying but inspiring bunch. The sound of over a thousand bikes riding in unison reminded many of the bombing campaign against North Vietnam dubbed Operation Rolling Thunder. Very powerful. Since then, that small group of veterans became known as Rolling Thunder. They are right thinking Americans with big hearts.

The number of riders has increased every year, and now nearly 900,000 members belong to the Rolling Thunder. There are currently 90 chapters throughout 32 states. Two of those chapters are back home in my great city—Houston, Texas. It's hard to find a more patriotic state than Texas. With 8 out of 10 Texans enlisting to serve our nation, it's not a surprise that Texans are joining the "Ride for Freedom" this year.

This year, like every year, on Memorial Day, Rolling Thunder chapters join together and ride to our Nation's Capital. These demonstrations are known as the "Ride for Freedom". This year, they celebrated the 31st Ride for Freedom. The ride begins at the Pentagon on Memorial Day. At noon the riders, all at once, start their motorcycles and begin the ride to The Wall to show their continued support for our missing and fallen soldiers. They pay their respects.

Although the group may have started to bring attention to our POWs/MIAs from Vietnam, they want to make sure all soldiers are

remembered. Today, the organization has branched out to include all wars and recognize that we still have an accumulated estimate of 86,788 unaccounted United States veterans.

Mr. Speaker, Rolling Thunder rides for our soldiers whose lives were given in pursuit of a great cause, American Freedom. I am proud to recognize these angels on bikes with hearts bigger than Texas. They make a difference and represent all that is right and good in America.

And that's just the way it is.

 TRIBUTE TO SHEYANN WEBB
CHRISTBURG
HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sheyann Webb Christburg, a leader in the American Voting Rights Movement. A trailblazer in every sense of the word, Sheyann was only eight years old when she dared to march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma on Bloody Sunday. She courageously participated in the March from Selma to Montgomery which led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Today, we pay tribute to Sheyann as one of the youngest foot soldiers for justice.

Sheyann was born in Selma, Alabama, in 1956 to parents John and Betty Webb as one of eight children. Growing up in public housing, she attended a segregated public school. As Sheyann walked to her third grade class one morning in January 1965, she stumbled across a meeting at Brown Chapel AME Church. There, she saw an uncommon sight for Alabama in the 1960s—both black and white people congregated together outside of the church. Noticing how powerful the moment was and never one to shy away, a curious Sheyann stepped inside to find Dr. Martin Luther King's aide Hosea Williams speaking to the crowd. Williams' words instantly caught her attention: "If you can't vote, then you're not free, and if you ain't free, children, then you're a slave".

Sheyann's participation in the mass meetings were not free from criticism. Upon returning to school, she was reprimanded for being late and attending potentially dangerous meetings. The Birmingham Church bombing had just taken place a few years prior, and her parents were worried that she would be a target for violence. Being involved in the Voting Rights Movement was dangerous, as it could jeopardize her parents' jobs or get them kicked out of public housing. But that did not stop her, Sheyann was determined to blaze her own trail towards freedom.

For her 9th birthday, Sheyann asked her parents to register to vote and stood in line with them at the local Dallas County courthouse for an entire day before they were registered. Sheyann was not deterred by her teachers either. Despite their warnings, she continued to skip class becoming the only child to regularly attend the mass meetings at Brown Chapel.

Sheyann was often accompanied to the after-school meetings by her schoolmate friend Rachel West. The two girls became particularly close with Dr. King himself. "What do

you want?", he would often ask the girls. "Freedom!" They would yell back, going back and forth louder and louder until they would all collapse with laughter. "Do you young ladies have your marching shoes on?", he would ask them. Sheyann always had her marching shoes on.

On March 7, 1965, Sheyann marched with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) across the Edmund Pettus Bridge on what later became known as Bloody Sunday. She was beaten with billy clubs and sprayed with tear gas. Despite being terrified by the violence that erupted, she was determined to continue to march. Sheyann kept attending mass meetings at Brown Chapel AME Church and marched again with SCLC towards Montgomery on March 21, 1965. Her enthusiasm was arguably too much even for Dr. King, who told her she did not have to march all the way to Montgomery and had her picked up by a van and driven back to Selma.

Sheyann's activism continued long after the marches. In junior high school, she became one of the first black students to integrate into an all-white school in Selma. She was pushed down stairs, called bad names, and was suspended from school—all while receiving no support from the administration. But Sheyann remained unbought and unbossed in her activism throughout her life, graduating from Tuskegee Institute in 1979.

Today, Sheyann continues her outreach and civic engagement through her company, KEEP Productions Youth Development Mentoring and Modeling Program, where she works with youth ages two to eighteen to help them blaze their own trails to success. Because Sheyann knows firsthand how impactful childhood opportunities can be, her program assists youth in helping them build self-esteem, confidence, and find purpose in their lives. In addition, she also works with youth groups across the State of Alabama to organize development workshops and training programs that help young people obtain the skills they need to succeed.

Sheyann remains vocal about her experiences in the Voting Rights Movement, writing the book 'Selma, Lord, Selma' which was eventually turned into a movie. She speaks to numerous religious, community, and educational institutions throughout the world and regularly appears on national talk shows.

On a personal note, I am privileged to have known Sheyann Webb Christburg all my life as a native daughter of Selma and my former babysitter. Sheyann has made such an incredible imprint on my life as a mentor, confidante and friend. To know Sheyann, is to be inspired by Sheyann. Her courage in the face of adversity, her moral compass on issues of social justice and her heart of gold are her trademark and standard bearers. I know that it is because of her influence on my life that I am Alabama's first Black Congresswoman. To say thank you doesn't seem an adequate reflection of my sincere gratitude.

On behalf of the 7th Congressional District, the State of Alabama and this nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the tremendous accomplishments and extraordinary contributions of Sheyann Webb Christburg—an American icon of the Voting Rights Movement. We pay tribute to her bravery as a trailblazer and honor her continued efforts to motivate and uplift up children across the State of Alabama and this nation.