

IN HONOR OF JAMES AND DIANE LUDDECKE ON THEIR RETIREMENT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2018

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank two outstanding civil servants, James and Diane Luddecke, at the time of their joint retirement, for their many years of service to the people of my hometown, Vernon, CT. The couple has been employed in the town Finance Department for over 30 years; James as the finance director and Diane as a budget analyst.

Their diligent work managing the town's finances during often challenging times is a model of professional and nonpartisan civil service that has always been focused on the public good. Jim's leadership extended beyond the town with his active participation in the statewide Finance Officer Association, providing good counsel to his colleagues from other municipalities and to the General Assembly about ways to efficiently modernize finance systems.

During their long service, the finance office was transformed from manual, hard copy bookkeeping to a digitized, data analytical system that might have overwhelmed many of us. Instead they both embraced change and made sure that Vernon taxpayers and public officials had the benefit of 21st century technology, providing efficiency and savings.

In addition to being the Finance Director, Jim wore many other hats in his tenure with the town government. He was first appointed to the town's Fine Arts Commission and has been a part of the Computer Authority Study, the Data Processing Advisory Board, and the Study Committee for School Renovations Bond Referendum over the years. In 1989, James was appointed town treasurer. Eventually he became the liaison to the Capital Improvement Committee.

Diane, who was hired in 1985 during the Herbst administration, has been the lead in her office managing most projects and overseeing day to day operations. She has served under 11 mayors, and her smart, cheerful competence was instrumental in carrying out the mission of the Finance Department.

On a personal note, I have been friends with both Jim and Diane for many years, having been the law partner of Jim's uncle, Leo Flaherty, for 20 years. I have always admired their lively intellect, great sense of humor, mutual support for U Conn basketball—men and women, the Boston Celtics, and deep passion for the town of Vernon's unique, diverse community and amazing history.

Jim and Diane deserve all the accolades they will receive in the coming days as they end this chapter in their lives. I fully expect however, that after recharging their batteries they will find other ways to contribute to the community they love, and we will be better off for it. I ask my colleagues to please join me in thanking James and Diane for being model citizens.

HONORING HENRY CAMPBELL

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a talented and driven man Mr. Henry Campbell. Mr. Campbell has shown what can be done through tenacity, dedication and a desire to serve his community.

Henry Campbell a lifelong resident of Yazoo City, MS was born on November 26, 1957 to Margaret Campbell and Henry Coleman, the youngest of eight children.

Henry Campbell graduated from Yazoo City High School in 1975 as a student and successful athlete. His athletic talents in baseball landed him an opportunity to be drafted by the New York Yankees, but he chose to attend college instead. Campbell earned a baseball scholarship to Jackson State University where he played from 1976 through 1978, while he studied in Physical Education.

After college, Campbell enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve for six years as a Supply Specialist at the National Guard Armory in Yazoo City, MS. Campbell started working for Yazoo City when he took a job as a maintenance person for Yazoo Housing Authority. He was later accepted a job as Manager for the Wardell Leach Recreational Complex which he managed from 1999 through 2009. In 2009 he became the Director of Parks and Recreation. After 20 years with Yazoo City he has decided to retire and spend his time hunting, fishing and traveling.

Campbell is married to Joyce Williams and to that union they have five children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Henry Campbell for his desire to make a difference in the lives of children and the community.

RECOGNIZING THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOCA RATON'S OPAL AWARDS

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2018

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the important work done by the Rotary Club of Boca Raton and to congratulate the recipients of their Outstanding People and Leaders (OPAL) awards. This year's honorees are Billi and Bernie Marcus, Jerry and Joan Glassman, Frank and Laura Frione, Summer Faerman, and Reverend Bill Mitchell.

Each of these honorees have made a lasting impact on our South Florida community. Their philanthropy, service, and selfless sacrifices have touched countless lives.

I extend my most sincere congratulations to all of tonight's honorees. Looking ahead in this new year, I am confident that the Rotary Club of Boca Raton will continue to be a cherished institution in South Florida that betters our community. I greatly appreciate the Club's work and am pleased to honor their OPAL award honorees.

IN RECOGNITION OF AMANDA EDMONDS FOR HER DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE YPSILANTI COMMUNITY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2018

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Amanda Edmonds for her service to our southeastern Michigan community and Growing Hope, an Ypsilanti based non-profit, over the past 15 years. She has enriched countless lives as a local leader and Executive Director of Growing Hope.

Raised in Missouri, Ms. Edmonds has been a passionate community leader and social justice advocate since she was a young student. After receiving her B.S. and M.S. from the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment, Ms. Edmonds became involved as a volunteer in Ypsilanti in 1999. She started volunteering at Perry Learning Garden, now Growing Hope, in Ypsilanti and is looked to as a leader in sustainable gardening, economic development and local food access. Through her passion for food sustainability, she worked to expand the Perry Learning Garden into Growing Hope, a non-profit that serves southeastern Michigan communities with start-up and gardening assistance, teaching classes, and hosting local farmer's markets.

Ms. Edmonds is a beloved leader in our community and has served as the Mayor of Ypsilanti since 2014. As Growing Hope's Executive Director, Ms. Edmonds has greatly expanded the facility's urban farm and instituted teaching programs for students and adults all throughout Michigan. The program serves as an example for other sustainable urban farms, and Ms. Edmonds travels to share how Growing Hope's success can be mirrored in other communities throughout the country. Her work as Growing Hope's Executive Director has seen her appointed to the Michigan Food Policy Council, where she chaired the Healthy Food Access Task Force for the state, as well as Vice Chair of the Washtenaw Food Policy Council and Ypsilanti Parks & Recreation Committee. Ms. Edmonds has been an invaluable leader at Growing Hope, and we look forward to her continued positive impact on our Michigan community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Amanda Edmonds as she retires from her position at Growing Hope. Her work has bettered Ypsilanti's food sustainability and access for years to come.

IN HONOR OF 2018 NASCAR HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE ROBERT "RED" BYRON

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2018

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the racing legend Robert Byron upon his induction into the ninth class of the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

If it weren't for men like Robert Byron, there is no doubt the racing industry as we know it

would not exist today. Robert played a pivotal role in both the development and expansion of NASCAR since its inception. After winning NASCAR's first season championship, Robert won NASCAR's first Strictly Stock title the following year, driving for car owner and Hall of Fame inductee Raymond Parks. Success followed him during every step of his journey which culminated in one of the most impressive careers in NASCAR history.

After being injured during WWII in service to his country, Robert used a modified clutch that attached to his leg. Robert continued to race and his injuries magnified his impressive skills. Even though he passed away in 1960, his legacy lives on and will now be preserved forever in the NASCAR Hall of Fame. A fierce competitor and true gentleman, he is the embodiment of racing and will now take his place among the greats in the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

This year's class was selected by a comprehensive voting panel that included track owners, retired competitors, industry leaders, members of the media, and a nationwide fan vote. In total, a group of five was chosen to join the ranks of other NASCAR legends in the Hall of Fame. Robert Byron is especially deserving of this honor and will now be enshrined forever for his contributions to the sport.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Robert Byron on his induction into the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OXBOW PUBLIC MARKET

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Oxbow Public Market of Napa, California, which is celebrating the 10th anniversary of its opening.

Real estate developer and specialty-food consultant Steve Carlin opened the Oxbow Public Market in 2007. Home to more than two dozen specialty merchants, including a distillery, ice cream shop and bookstore, Oxbow remains one of the most popular places in Napa to find great food and wine.

Thanks to their exceptional quality and variety of products, the Oxbow Public Market has earned praise from numerous news outlets and food magazines. In September of 2017, Tasting Table, an online magazine devoted to America's best food and drink, recognized the Oxbow Market as home to "the world's best English Muffins." The magazine praised Oxbow for its numerous homemade, local offerings, and cited testimony from Oprah Winfrey, who regularly flies Oxbow's English muffins to her home and described them as "crunchy on the outside, fluffy on the inside, and scrumptious all over."

The Oxbow Public Market proudly sells sustainably-produced local crops, and supports organic farming practices, owner-operated businesses, local food producers and the agricultural community of the Napa Valley and surrounding areas. By supporting local producers and promoting sustainable practices, Oxbow not only offers area residents a reliable

source of world-class products, but provides a showcase for the innovative people and practices that make Napa's agricultural community so special.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the Oxbow Public Market for creating a place in our community where people can gather to enjoy the best local produce and wind of the Napa Valley. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor them here today.

HONORING JEFFERY KILPATRICK

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mr. Jeffery Kilpatrick.

Jeffery Demond Kilpatrick was born on August 13, 1973, in East St. Louis, Illinois to the parents of Jimmy and Mary Alice Kilpatrick.

Jeffery is a dedicated member of the Body of Christ Ministry in Memphis, Tennessee under the leadership of Pastor Barbara Palmer.

Jeffery graduated high school in May 1991 from East St. Louis Senior High School. He later continued his graduate studies at Mississippi Valley State University where he earned his Bachelor and Master Degrees.

He developed an interest in politics at an early age and decided to run for the position of Mayor of the City of Drew in 2005 and was successfully re-elected in 2009 and 2013.

Along with ensuring the safety and promoting the development of new businesses and community enrichment Jeffery is a Correctional Supervisor at the Mississippi State Penitentiary and Mound Bayou Police Department where he has also made a career of protecting the citizens of Sunflower County for 23½ years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Jeffery Kilpatrick for his dedication to serving others and giving back to his community.

IRANIAN PROTESTS

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2018

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on the developments in Iran. For years many in the United States and elsewhere, have been advocating for changes in Iranian policy, including the adoption and implementation of human rights with respect to dissidents, religious minorities, protesters and opponents. The recent protests, and the loss of life in response to the protests, give us the opportunity to reflect that now is the time to reaffirm freedom of expression. Now is the time to reaffirm restraint and protect the lives of protestors.

I am encouraged that the High Level Political Dialogue between the European Union and Iran in Brussels last year included a discussion on protecting and enhancing human rights. Nor should it go unnoticed that even the Iranian Supreme Leader noted that the leading opposition group, the Mujahedin-e

Khalq (MEK), has popular support within Iran. It follows that the MEK should be treated as a legitimate opposition party with grass roots appeal. The MEK has pointed out the excesses of the current government and its efforts at accountability ring true with many Iranians. It is my hope that Iran can embrace a more responsible world view, a more humane approach to its own people, and allow dissidents and protestors the freedom to air their grievances.

TRIBUTE TO NORMAN LAU KEE

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2018

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a great New Yorker, Norman Lau Kee.

Norman Lau Kee was one of the pioneers of the legal profession in New York's Chinatown. He was a grandson of Chinese immigrants, a successful academic, a World War II veteran and most significantly, was part of a very small vanguard of Asian lawyers who first provided legal representation for Chinatown residents beginning in the 1950s.

However, these accomplishments only tell part of the story of the lifelong achievements of Norman Lau Kee. He was born 90 years ago in 1927 to Sing Kee and his wife Ina Chan-Kee in New York's Chinatown. His father was a decorated veteran of World War I who was awarded the United States' Distinguished Service Cross and France's Croix de Guerre medal of honor. Norman Lau Kee attended Brooklyn Tech High School, and then served in the Navy during World War II. He later received a degree in mechanical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). While in Boston, he met and fell in love with Esther Goon. They were married shortly thereafter and raised a family of five children who gave their parents eight grandchildren and one great grandchild. During his early professional life, Mr. Kee gravitated to law. While working fulltime with an engineering firm, he attended Fordham Law School at night from which he received his J.D. degree in 1955.

Mr. Kee was only Chinatown's third lawyer when he hung out his shingle to open his law practice in 1956. Chinatown's residents had many legal needs, and Mr. Kee developed a specialty in immigration law. He provided much-needed legal advice to families and their businesses, helping them navigate through a complex and foreign legal system. At the same time, Mr. Kee helped to bring many family members of Chinatown residents into the United States during a long period of great political and cultural upheaval in China. By bridging that gap, Mr. Kee fostered an enduring cultural connection.

Mr. Kee also played an important role in government as demonstrated by his long and impressive record of distinguished public service. Among some of his many contributions, he served on the New York City Human Rights Commission from 1969 to 1973 and was chair of the Federal Advisory Committee of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service from 1979 to 1980.