

humanitarian efforts have been recognized and celebrated by, among others, Congressman DANNY DAVIS, Congressman BILL FOSTER, Governor Pat Quinn, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, and President Jimmy Carter.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Amma's selfless and compassionate devotion to all people, and her work to bring peace and understanding to our world.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF BLACK FAMILY DEVELOPMENT INC. DURING ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2018

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorees of the Black Family Development Corporation's 2018 Community Champions Arise Detroit and Impact Detroit awards amid its 40th anniversary. The BFDI has played a critical role in helping empower families in Michigan by giving them the help they need.

Since its founding in 1978, the BFDI has promoted and provided excellent social services in Detroit that are suited to the particular cultural needs of communities. The Detroit Chapter of the National Association of Black Social Workers, which was the precursor to BFDI, was based on the community derived needs and resulted in a programmatic focus by BFDI on child abuse and neglect. The BFDI works on behalf of children and families in their own communities in a culturally competent and respectful manner. These services have improved the lives of both parents and children in Detroit for forty years, and the success of their programs suggests it has a very long and bright future ahead of it.

The BFDI's work has been indispensable in helping forgotten communities of color. Its efforts have increased graduation rates, improved the skills of parents, and set guidelines to develop positive behaviors in at-risk children. I am proud to recognize the outstanding efforts of the BFDI and its members, and it is my hope that they will continue to be an influential and positive voice for countless families.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Black Family Development Inc and its 40 years of success. Its work on behalf of neglected communities in Detroit has played a key role in caring for American families.

HONORING OFFICER ALEXIS HALL

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable community servant, Officer Alexis Hall. Officer Hall has shown what can be done through hard work, setting goals, and aiming high.

Officer Hall has been with the Vicksburg Police Department since September 2015. Officer Hall is following in the footsteps of law en-

forcement professionals in her family. Officer Hall's mother and uncle, Lt. Penny Jones and Captain Milton Moore, have served the Vicksburg Police Department since 1999.

Officer Hall has gone above and beyond her duties as a law enforcement officer on several occasions. Officer Hall's prompt reaction to provide medical attention proved to be life-saving measures for the individuals involved. Hall's quick thinking was a commendable effort. Officer Hall received the 2017 Vicksburg Police Department Top Cop.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Officer Alexis Hall for her dedication to serving her community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE 14TH AMENDMENT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition and celebration of the 150th anniversary of the ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment.

On July 9, 1868, 150 years ago, two great defects in the original Constitution were corrected.

First, Section 1 of the Fourteenth Amendment repealed the "three-fifths" provision in the original Constitution and declared that "any and all persons born or naturalized in the United States would be guaranteed all the rights and privileges of citizenship."

Second, the Fourteenth Amendment provided and guaranteed to all persons in the United States due process and the equal protection of the law.

I ask that we reflect upon the progress this nation has made in fulfilling its founding promise that "we hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal."

This promise of liberty and equality has been withheld from far too many for far too long.

While life and liberty is enshrined in our documents, this was not true for all.

Contrary to the spirit of the American Revolution, the Southern slave population at the time increased to 1.1 million in 1810 and then to nearly 4 million in 1860; by 1860 in my state of Texas, over 30 percent of the population was comprised of slaves.

Our democratic institutions—instruments of modern, civil government founded to ensure that barbaric tyrannies against humanity would be assigned to history—repeatedly upheld such blatant oppression in the form of legislation and judicial decisions that justified the horrific practices.

Even after the Thirteenth Amendment and the defeat of the Confederacy, "Black Codes," passed in numerous Southern States, continued to deny African Americans basic rights and privileges enjoyed by white citizens, such as the right to free travel, to own certain property, or to bring suit in court.

Therefore 150 years ago, the Fourteenth Amendment was ratified as an endeavor to reshape the fundamental fabric of race relations in America.

Let us remember, however, that the amendment is but a single mile marker in the ardu-

ous march of courageous Americans who sought to hold our nation accountable to its founding principles.

We must also remember that the Fourteenth Amendment, and the struggle and sacrifice that came thereafter, ultimately allowed this government to become a more diverse, dynamic body to better uphold the promise of America.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in this chamber on this occasion to reaffirm that I will not squander my hard-earned opportunity to fight for the rights of all Americans regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

And on the sesquicentennial of this very important moment for progress and equality, the current president plans to select a nominee to fill a seat on the highest court in the land.

I remind this body that the next jurist will replace a justice who recognized the importance of affirmative action as a necessary means to help heal the scars of segregation and Jim Crowe; the next jurist will further likely be required to calibrate the balance of power between labor unions and their employing entities.

Given the importance of these and other issues, like voting rights, reproductive rights, the rights of the LGBTQ community, and countless others, those who believe the Court is the arbiter of fair justice, are looking for a jurist who will dispense fair justice for all Americans as guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment.

I call upon my colleagues in the Senate to put aside partisanship to ensure that the blood and sweat of patriots who gave their lives to safeguard our civil liberties shall not be in vain.

Mr. Speaker, the America that the Fourteenth Amendment saw is a nation with infinite potential for progress: that despite our history, we must continue to look toward finally achieving that shining city upon a hill.

I urge my colleagues in Congress, our faithful public servants in the myriad of federal institutions across the nation, as well as our friends in the Supreme Court to join me in celebrating that vision in this critical time of our republic by bravely choosing to step into the future by expanding civil liberties in our nation, not fumble in the past for a purportedly greater bygone era.

IN HONOR OF MR. RALPH PAIGE

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2018

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding leader and dear friend of longstanding, Mr. Ralph Paige. Sadly, Mr. Paige passed away on Thursday, June 28, 2018. A funeral service was held on Friday, July 6, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. at New Community Church in LaGrange, Georgia.

A LaGrange, Georgia native, Ralph Paige received his Bachelor's degree in Education in 1967 from what is now Fort Valley State University and attended graduate school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Ralph joined the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund (the Federation) in 1969 as a Grassroots Organizer and

went on to serve as the Director of the Federation's Business Development Office in the 70's; Director of the Federation's VISTA Project from 1977 to 1981; and as the Federation's National Field Director from 1981 until 1985 when he was promoted to the role of Executive Director, where he served with great distinction until his retirement in 2015.

During his 46-year tenure with the Federation, it flourished immensely and was instrumental in the creation of housing projects, community credit unions, cooperatives, and training programs for African-American farmers throughout the South. Ralph led the effort to file suit against the United States Department of Agriculture for discrimination in credit, conservation and rural development. Out of this effort, the Pigford I and Pigford II class action lawsuit cases were born. This paved the way for one of the largest discrimination law suits in the history of the United States and resulted in \$2.5 billion in payments to African American farm families. Furthermore, he also fought for settlements for Native American, Hispanic and Women Farmers who were also the victims of discrimination.

Ralph was a member of numerous local, state, and national boards to include: Nationwide Insurance Company, National Cooperative Business Association, Cooperative Development Foundation, Cooperative Business International, the President's (George Bush) Twenty First Century Agriculture Commission, and the Rural Policy Advisory Committee to President Barack Obama and many more. Among his acclamations were inductions into the George Washington Carver Public Service Hall of Fame and the Cooperative Hall of Fame; a Congressional Black Caucus Leadership Award; and a National Cooperative Business Association Co-op Month Leadership Award. Under Ralph's outstanding leadership, the Federation received several commendations including a Humanitarian Award from the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change and a United Nations Award for "significant contribution of adequate shelter to the poorer segments of the community."

Ralph accomplished much throughout his life, but it would not have been possible without his enduring faith in God and the love and support of his wife of 51 years, Bernice; his children, Bernard and Kenyatta; and the countless others who impacted his life over the years.

On a personal note, Ralph and the federation worked diligently to facilitate a business loan to establish my law firm in Columbus, Georgia. I represented the Federation as an Attorney and during my years as a member of the Georgia General Assembly, I worked with Ralph and the Federation to enhance and facilitate state resources for the work of the Federation and its Land Assistance Activities. As a member of Congress, serving on the House Agriculture Committee and the Subcommittee of the House Agriculture Appropriations Committee, I along with other Members of the Congressional Black Caucus collaborated with Ralph Paige, the Federation and other organizations to enhance the full participation of minority and disadvantaged farmers in the receipt of resources for Agriculture, Conservation and Rural Development from the United States Department of Agriculture.

The great agricultural chemist Dr. George Washington Carver once said, "No individual has any right to come into the world and go

out of it without leaving behind distinct and legitimate reasons for having passed through it." We are all so blessed that Ralph Paige passed this way and during his life's journey did so much for so many for so long. His leadership, his friendship, and his presence will be greatly missed.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, the 48 members of the Congressional Black Caucus, along with the more than 730,000 people of the Second Congressional District, extend our heartfelt condolences to Ralph's family and friends during this difficult time. May they be consoled and comforted by their abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OUTSTANDING CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2018

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the Outstanding Corporate Citizenship Awards, presented by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce. These awards, presented annually, are given to individuals, businesses and non-profits in Northern Virginia that have demonstrated exceptional dedication to business leadership, employee engagement, and corporate social responsibility.

In Northern Virginia, we are blessed to have a strong tradition of civic engagement, which extends not only to our neighborhoods, but to our thriving business community as well. Efforts like the ones exhibited by the recipients of these awards are among the many reasons why Fairfax County remains one of the best places in the country in which to live, work, raise a family, and start a business.

It is my honor to include in the RECORD the names of the 2018 Outstanding Corporate Citizenship Awards:

Non-Profit of the Year—Cornerstones.

Public Sector of the Year—Fairfax County Office of Public Private Partnerships.

Emerging Leader of the Year—Stephen Gilotte, President & CEO, Reinventing Geospatial, Inc.

Executive Leader of the Year—Timothy Lyden—Partner, Northern Virginia—Hogan Lovells.

Small Business—ThunderCat Technology.

Mid-Size Business—Acumen Solutions.

Large Business—Accenture.

Mr. Speaker, as a former member and Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, I have seen firsthand how the partnership between our public, private, and non-profit sectors come together to improve the lives of innumerable members of our community and maintain our high quality of life. I thank the Northern Virginia Chamber for once again sponsoring these important awards and extend my congratulations to all of the award recipients. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking them for their service to our community and in wishing them great success in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE GENEROSITY OF AMERIGROUP GEORGIA AND THE GEORGIA MOUNTAIN FOOD BANK

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2018

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the generosity of Amerigroup Georgia and the Georgia Mountain Food Bank for their efforts to fight malnutrition through a customized food box program.

The food box program was started in 2016 by Georgia Mountain Food Bank and Good News Clinic to provide nutritious food boxes to food-insecure Northeast Georgians. Due to its success, the program began collaborating with the Long Street Clinic, through which it provided food boxes tailored to the needs of diabetics.

Through the faithful work of these organizations, North Georgians struggling with poverty and health challenges are getting the nutritional support they need. The recent receipt of grant money provided by Amerigroup Georgia, a health insurance and managed health care provider, will enable the Georgia Mountain Food Bank to reach more North Georgians in need.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Amerigroup Georgia and the Georgia Mountain Food Bank as they continue to forge local partnerships to serve members of our community.

HONORING SCOTT LINDBLOOM

HON. TOM O'HALLERAN

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2018

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Mr. Scott Lindbloom of Show Low, Arizona. Scott dedicates a significant part of his life to improving the lives of people like himself who have an intellectual or developmental disability. This week, the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities is honoring Scott for his work to empower people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I would like to offer my congratulations to him.

I met Scott at the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council booth at "Show Low Days" in June 2017. We spoke about Scott's work to advocate for critical legislation to meet the needs of people with developmental disabilities in my district. Scott believes, as I do, that every person, regardless of ability, should be able to participate fully in their community.

Our initial meeting helped kickstart the Disability Advisory Council in my district, the aim of which is gathering information from my constituents about whether federal programs and proposed legislation meets the needs of rural Northern Arizona residents with disabilities. The group now meets quarterly in the Arizona White Mountains.

In addition to his participation in the Disability Advisory Council, Scott also volunteers at the Show Low Chamber of Commerce, where he has helped to create internships for