

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

high school students with developmental disabilities so that they can gain workplace skills and experience.

I wholeheartedly congratulate Scott for receiving the Champion of Equal Opportunity Start Your Journey award and thank him for his work to improve the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

HERALDING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF PRIYANKA KUMAR

HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2018

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to herald the achievements of a brilliant young constituent, Priyanka Kumar. As a volunteer at a medical research lab, Priyanka assisted in developing human skin grafts using 3D print technology that could be used to treat burn victims. Last week her exceptional spirit of volunteerism earned her a Congressional Award Gold Medal.

A resident of Latham, NY, Priyanka has also worked closely with her STEM peers to create a mental health awareness initiative and has tutored local children in an array of subjects. She has said working with other women in STEM is especially gratifying, and she takes great pride in her commitment to breaking stereotypes in this male-dominated field.

Priyanka also showed exceptional ingenuity in service of others by using computer programming tools to identify tweets from people requesting aid during natural disasters, to make hospitals safer by reminding doctors to use hand sanitizers, and to master machine-learning algorithms that detect cancer in the human genome.

Priyanka described receiving the Congressional Award as an amazing experience that taught her the importance of giving back to a community. Well done, Priyanka. Her future is incredibly bright, and her friends, family and all of us in her community are very proud of all that she has accomplished.

CASTLE ROCK PARKS AND RECREATION

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2018

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional work done by the Parks and Recreation Department of Castle Rock, Colorado.

This year, Castle Rock Parks and Recreation was named a finalist in the 2018 National Gold Medal Award Program for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management, hosted by the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA).

AAPRA is an association of 120 national leaders in parks and recreation management. All the individuals in this exclusive group have at least 15 years of high-level park administration experience or currently manage an agency that serves a population over 550,000. This limited number of high-caliber members makes AAPRA a premier authority on parks and recreation administration.

When it gives out its gold medal awards, AAPRA reviews applications from parks and recreation departments of various sizes across the nation. For its population size, Castle Rock Parks and Recreation ranked as one of the top-five agencies in the nation.

Coloradans know that Castle Rock is synonymous with natural beauty. The town's parks and recreation department works tirelessly to preserve wild areas, make the outdoors accessible to all residents, and provide high-quality indoor facilities.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Castle Rock Parks and Recreation in the Fourth Congressional District for its stellar work to strengthen our community and support our people.

HONORING BRIA CARBO

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 an athletic young lady, Ms. Bria Carbo of Clinton, Mississippi.

Bria Carbo is the youngest child of Ron Carbo and Dana Carbo-Bryant. She is one of three siblings to Brent and Jolie Carbo. Currently, Bria is a Junior of Clinton High School in Clinton, MS.

Bria Carbo is a very outgoing and athletic young lady, who is carrying on a legacy of track athletes in her family. Bria began running track at the age of eight (8), participating on the Amos track team and the Mississippi Track Stars summer track program in the Jackson, MS area. She began her school track career at Byram Middle School, Byram, MS and continued on when she transferred to Clinton Middle School, Clinton, MS. In 8th grade, Bria started varsity cross country with Coach Marett and varsity track in 9th grade with Coach Perkins. She has had the privilege of being a part of the state championship winning Clinton track team, three out of their 5 wins.

Bria's family history in track is very valuable. Her father, Ron, had a successful varsity and Junior Olympic track career as a native of New Orleans, La. Her older siblings, Brent and Jolie, were sprinters for Terry High School, Terry, MS. Her sister, Jolie, is currently completing her senior year as a member of the track team for the University of Mississippi. All three (3) have participated in the Junior Olympics at some point in their track careers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Bria Carbo for her hard work and dedication at Clinton High School and I wish her much success as she continues to pursue her track career and carry her family's legacy.

BOB DOLE! BOB DOLE! IN HONOR OF SENATOR ROBERT J. DOLE, A GREAT AMERICAN LEADER AND HERO FROM KANSAS ON HIS UPCOMING 95TH BIRTHDAY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2018

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an American Icon and National Treasure. An American Hero, and a man for all seasons, former Senate Leader Robert J. Dole on his upcoming 95th birthday. I include in the RECORD this poem penned in his honor by Albert Carey Caswell.

BOB DOLE! BOB DOLE!

(By Albert Carey Caswell)

BOB DOLE! BOB DOLE!

An American Hero, Oh

America's soul

A fine story of courage and glory

To have and to hold

BOB DOLE! BOB DOLE!

Of someone all our children should know

When from out of The West,

came one of America's Best with a heart of gold.

BOB DOLE! BOB DOLE!

An American tale,

who against all odds showed us just how,

To accept God's Will,

no matter how dark to move onward still

Don't forget, in the Big One WWII he helped 'Save The World'

Almost dying for our boys and girls.

As a poor farm boy from Kansas, as an American Hero he now stands.

BOB DOLE! BOB DOLE!

Who while at death's door somehow courageously moved forth

Until, one day he became a giant upon The Senate floor

And with all his wit and charm and kindness touching hearts so very warm.

BOB DOLE! BOB DOLE!

And yea Bob you could have given Bob Hope a run for his money,

because just like him too Bob, you're so funny.

BOB DOLE! BOB DOLE!

Because, when you've looked at death and loss straight in the face

It's either get up and learn how to laugh or die in that place

As you kept up your courageous pace.

BOB DOLE! BOB DOLE!

With the kind of faith,

which brings tears to our Lord's eyes with all you faced

For you Bob were like the Clint Eastwood of the Senate,

as you could be so very tough in it

But, fair like The Great One Henry Clay

As you too used that great art of compromise day after day

'Get a piece here and then a piece there,

and before you know it you've got most of what you wanted in the first place there.'

BOB DOLE! BOB DOLE!

As Bob your word was always your bond,

why even across the aisle today of you they are still fond

And you and Alan Simpson,

were The Original Leadership Dream Team which will live on

Because, you guys have both touched so many hearts from dusk to dawn

And Elizabeth,

well you married up Bob, way, way, way past where you belong.