

## RECOGNIZING SHIRLEY COMBS

**HON. DOUG COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Shirley Combs for the lifechanging impact she has made on the homeless community in Toccoa, Georgia.

Nineteen years ago, Ms. Combs opened Shirley's Sole Food Café in Toccoa. It was opening day, and she had just prepared heaps of homemade creamed corn, fried chicken, sweet potato cobbler—every southern food you could ever imagine. Luncheon time rolled around, and she opened her doors with excitement, but there was just one small problem—there wasn't a customer in sight. In an effort to ensure her delicious food didn't go to waste, Ms. Shirley walked out outside, found a homeless man, and told him to round up everyone he knew to come eat.

Nearly two decades later, and Ms. Shirley is still nurturing the homeless in more ways than one. Each afternoon when her restaurant closes to the general public, a line begins to form at the back door; a line of people looking for a second chance and a full belly. As one of her customers recently said, "discarded food nourishes the soul of another."

But Ms. Shirley's mission to nourish souls in need doesn't stop there. Listed on her menu is the option to donate to Shirley's Shelter—a 501c3 that has helped over 300 people get off the streets in the last 12 years, which is funded thanks to customer donations and a monthly breakfast. Through Shirley's Shelter, Ms. Shirley maintains three homes for previously homeless men and women who help at the restaurant until they get back on their feet while remaining drug free. Ms. Shirley also works to reconnect them to their families, often distanced due to addiction.

Reflecting on her restaurant and shelter, Ms. Shirley recently remarked, "all glory and honor goes to God. We are called to care for the least among us."

Ms. Shirley is certainly caring for the least among us, and in the most beautiful way—by turning her passion of cooking into care and compassion for those less fortunate. On behalf of the Ninth District, I want to thank her for transforming lives in Toccoa and beyond.

## HONORING THE WORLD WAR II, KOREAN WAR, AND VIETNAM WAR VETERANS OF ILLINOIS

**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War veterans who traveled to Washington, D.C. on August 7, 2019 with Honor Flight Chicago, a program that provides World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War veterans the opportunity to visit their memorials on The National Mall in Washington, D.C. These memorials were built to honor their courage and service to their country.

The American Veteran is one of our greatest treasures. The Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors,

Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who traveled here on August 7th answered our nation's call to service during several of its greatest times of need. Across the world, these brave Americans risked life and limb, gave service and sacrificed much, all while embodying what it is to be a hero. We owe them more gratitude than can ever be expressed.

I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorials. I am proud to include in the RECORD the names of these men and women for all to see, hear, and recognize, and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing gratitude.

Lawrence F. Anaszewicz, Walter J. Anzerewicz, Glenn R. Anderson, Gerald H. Arnott, John L. Augustine, Thomas Bartholomew, Randall E. Beck, William F. Bike, Dominic Biondi, Clarence Bowling, Matthew F. Bryla Jr., Raymond G. Cartwright, Frank R. Catuara, Leroy Cobb, Giuseppe Cursio, Thomas H. Diamond, Eugene G. Dilling, James F. Doddato, Ward W. Dunlap.

George J. Dusek, Sylvester R. Dziedzic, Florian C. Dziedzic, David Charles Eaton, George A. Eckberg Jr., David D. Evans, Theodore Rawland Floyd, Felix Grzelinski Jr., Vito Gulotta, Denis Harbison, Kastytis V. Ilginis, Howard A. Ischinger, Lauren Ray Jackson, Ronald E. Jacobsen, Richard J. Jaime, Ben F. Jimms, William R. Johnson, William J. Juneau, Melvin D. Keef, Gary L. Keen, Thomas F. Keith.

Thomas W. Kellner, Thomas M. Kelly, John Kennaugh, Joseph M. Kiefer, Howard L. Kirby, Lawrence P. Klaus, Daniel A. Konczak, Sr., Barbara A. Lloyd, Edward Ludwig, Charles Luhan Jr., Samuel J. Maggio, Joseph P. Maloney, Robert S. Mamrot, William D. Margwarth, Joseph Martinek, Ramon J. Mayer, Weeme McCullum Sr., Robert E. McDonald, Bruce McElhose, Raymond O. Meredith, Jr., Thomas A. Mlynak, Loren H. Monsess, Frank F. Montefalco.

Larry Moton, Wallace Myers, Gary A. Nelson, George R. Nutter, Thomas G. Obmascik, Frank W. Passananti, Donald James Phelps, Phillip F. Pintor, George W. Podowski, Louis G. Puhl, Thomas Reddish, Andrej A. Remec, Ronald Riopel, Irwin Rosenson, Fred Roberto Rymar, Robert C. Sanders, Reynold Sanfilip, Allan F. Schaefer, Roger P. Schaff, Charles E. Schindler, Curt O. Schumacher, Edward Schwartz, Richard E. Scott.

Dennis F. Shea, Thomas A. Shumpert, Norman Simone, Robert Dennis Smith, David J. Smith, James S. Sowinski, Bernard R. Stack, Charles J. Stanek, Jerry T. Stewart, Gregory R. Stoltman, Vernon Strege, Joseph A. Stubits, William D. Swaggerty, Joseph J. Tortorich, Teddy Turner, Vernon Tweddle, Michael L. Urbano, Henry A. VanProyen, Allan L. Walraven, Keith A. Whitman, Edward A. Zimmerman, David Zorn, James R. Zwit.

## IN RECOGNITION OF THE VOLUNTEERS OF FRIENDS IN DEED OF YPSILANTI

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the volunteers of Friends in Deed of Ypsilanti. They have received the Outstanding Volunteer Program Governor's Service Award for their commitment to the service of those in the Washtenaw County community.

Since 1983, Friends in Deed of Ypsilanti has provided assistance to their neighbors in need in Washtenaw County. These services include direct monetary assistance, adaptive services, the providing of needed furniture, such as beds, and their own Circles program which helps families get out of poverty. These programs "fill the cracks of assistance" between other nonprofits and agencies. The Friends in Deed mission is "Helping People in Need; Building Community to End Poverty."

Over 200 volunteers serve nearly 7,000 hours per year at Friends in Deed of Ypsilanti. They assist their neighbors and their families in navigating crisis, help families with payment related to emergency medical needs, repair needed means of transportation, and other one-time payments. Those who are assisted by Friends in Deed are given the confidence, independence, skills, support and resources, to help them escape poverty. Friends in Deed of Ypsilanti's designation of Outstanding Volunteer Program of the Year is well deserved. Their services have vastly impacted and improved the lives of countless families in Washtenaw County.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the volunteers of Friends in Deed of Ypsilanti. Their commitment to helping and serving their community is unmatched.

## RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SCHOLARSHIP OF HISHAM AHMED

**HON. MARK DeSAULNIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 9, 2019

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and scholarship of long time Saint Mary's College professor, Dr. Hisham H. Ahmed.

Hisham was born in 1963 at the Dheisheh refugee camp near Bethlehem, Palestine. Despite being born without eyesight, Hisham committed himself to his studies as a child and scored third in the Palestinian National Exams, enabling him to study in the United States.

Hisham began his academic career at Illinois State University earning a bachelor's degree in political science in 1985. He went on to earn a masters and doctorate in political science from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1986 and 1988, respectively. Over the next 30 years, he would teach at Florida International University, the University of North Dakota, Bir Zeit University in Palestine, and ultimately here in Contra Costa County at Saint Mary's College of California.

Hisham was a renowned scholar of Middle East politics and international relations, as well as an expert on terrorism and the Hamas movement. In 1993, he served as a Fulbright Scholar in Palestine. Hisham worked constantly to improve international understanding through teaching and research, and co-founded several international bodies to enhance peace, democracy, and human rights in the Middle East.

Beyond his professional achievements, Hisham wrote poetry and was well-versed in Arabic literature. He was a loving husband and father, and had a wonderful sense of humor. As a teacher, scholar, and advocate, he spoke truth to power to remove walls, build trust, and empower others.

Please join me in honoring the life of Dr. Hisham Ahmed. He will be sorely missed by his family, friends, colleagues, and students.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR. W. JEROME FISHER

HON. NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 9, 2019*

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the extraordinary life of the late Reverend Dr. W. Jerome Fisher, pastor of the first black church in Compton, California.

Reverend Dr. W. Jerome Fisher was born March 11, 1924 in the small town of Merryville, Louisiana in an era of sharecropping and Jim Crow. After accompanying his father to Chicago, Illinois as a child, Jerome Fisher honorably served his country as a medic in Normandy during World War II.

After serving in World War II, W. Jerome Fisher moved to Compton, California where he built the City's first black church, Little Zion Missionary Baptist Church.

Under the leadership of W. Jerome Fisher, Little Zion's congregation grew from 13 members to over 2,000, forming several community outreach programs to meet the needs of the greater community.

As pastor, Jerome Fisher, led Little Zion and the Compton community through times of pain and triumph for more than 50 years—including offering the opening invocation for the 100th Congress in 1988.

Sixty-five years after its founding, Little Zion Missionary Baptist Church now stands as Greater Zion Missionary Baptist Church—a beacon of Jerome Fisher's indelible legacy of distinguished service. That legacy lives on through its current pastor, Dr. Michael J. Fisher, his son, who took on the mantle of pastor in 2005.

I, along with the residents of California's 44th Congressional District mourn the passing of Reverend Dr. W. Jerome Fisher and celebrate his service and remarkable work.

IN CELEBRATION OF JERRY FISCHER

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 9, 2019*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the career of Jerry Fischer, a dedicated servant and defender of the Jewish community, who retired as executive director of the Jewish Federation of Eastern Connecticut on June 30, 2019, after leading the Federation since 1984. Jerry lives in the state of Connecticut, where he has acted as a strengthening and unifying force for the state's Jewish community for thirty-five years.

Jerry is, and always has been, a bastion for the preservation and prosperity of Connecticut's Jewish constituents. In his final year-end report, he told the Jewish Federation's board of directors that the goal his three-decade career was "to bring acts of loving kindness into the community and the world." Native to Washington Heights, at 17 years old Jerry made the journey from New York City to Israel, where he spent a year, eventually making the decision to join the Israeli army for the Six Day War of June 1967. He cited this decision as a response to the Holocaust, the genocide that brutally murdered 6 million of his own people. His childhood in Washington Heights places him in one of the epicenters of the civil rights movements; Jerry took this experience and his time in Israel to create a career of leadership based in compassion and justice.

Determined to push the Jewish community and the world forward, rather than back, Jerry stood up in the face of Holocaust skeptics and deniers and began the Encountering Survivors program, which brought Holocaust survivors and their family members face to face with high school students so that their stories of persecution and survival may live on through younger generations. In one such case, Jerry recruited 91-year-old Rae Gawendo, a Jewish refugee who arrived in Connecticut in the wake of the second World War, and, with the help of the Jewish Agricultural Society, started a chicken farm with her husband Jacob. Gawendo was sent from the Vilna ghetto to the Klooga work camp in 1942, where she was forced to work in a sawmill that processed the very logs used to burn Jewish bodies. She first spoke about her nightmare at a Holocaust commemoration arranged by Jerry Fischer, who later orchestrated meetings of

small groups of students in her home, who listened with rapt attention as she recounted the truth of her life—before, during, and after the war. Through interactions like these, Jerry created lasting, crucial bonds between generations that solidified his place among the country's leaders in indisputably preserving the memory of the Holocaust.

Madam Speaker, Jerry has also been a positive voice in Southeastern Connecticut moral and social life, promoting solidarity with other religious communities. Every Martin Luther King Day he has marched with Bishop Watts of the Shiloh Baptist Church and hundreds of other shivering members of the New London County community to an ecumenical observance of Martin Luther King's life and legacy. He has organized public forums to discuss the Middle East conflict, and has been a voice of moderation, supporting a two-state solution as a path to peace. He has led thousands of Eastern Connecticut residents on trips to the Middle East, and his fluency in Hebrew and encyclopedic knowledge of the Holy Land educated all of his guests on the wonder and deep spiritual history of that region. I personally experienced that a few years back when he took me through Jerusalem and was equally conversant on the Wailing Wall, Dome of the Rock, and the Stations of the Cross in a spellbinding tour that I will never forget. He also rescued me from an unscrupulous vendor in the marketplace who tried to overcharge me for some religious souvenirs I naively almost overpaid for. Thanks again Jerry.

Jerry has also been there to support the community in sad and tragic moments. After the sickening mass shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 2018, Jerry joined local rabbis, ministers, imams and priests to deliver a message of love and resolve to end senseless hate and gun violence in the media and at public events. He is a quintessential leader for all of us in Eastern Connecticut and we have been blessed by his grace and wisdom.

Madam Speaker, although Jerry is stepping down as Executive Director, he plans to continue to be an active member of the Jewish community. In an editorial detailing the highlights of his career, The New London Day wrote, "He and his wife Christine will remain in the area, and we suspect his mitzvahs—his acts of loving kindness—will continue, because that's who Jerry Fischer is." I would ask the House to please join me in extending our deepest gratitude to Jerry for his years of service and dedication to the Jewish community.