

In its 24 years under Jim's leadership, MABA has consistently and exceptionally represented the interests of the agricultural industry in Michigan, offering important resources to businesses while working proactively to keep the industry ahead in the global marketplace. For instance, MABA's "2025" project has encouraged industry leaders to think about long-term needs and how Michigan agriculture will grow in the coming years. Jim has excelled as a leader and communicator, and his expertise has made him well-respected by those across the political spectrum.

Agriculture is the second-largest sector of Michigan's economy, contributing more than \$71 billion to the economy annually and supporting one out of every four jobs in the state. With today's ever-evolving world, the work of industry leaders like Jim has been critical in making Michigan the agricultural hub it is. His impact on the state of Michigan cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate Jim Byrum for his decades of service as President of the Michigan Agri-Business Association. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a dedicated leader. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Jim all the best in his future endeavors.

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HONORING THE SALEM OREGON  
ROTARY ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

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**HON. KURT SCHRADER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 12, 2019*

Mr. SCHRADER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Rotary Club of Salem, Oregon as they celebrate their 100th year of service to the Salem community. With nearly 200 members, the Rotary Club of Salem has established itself as one of the most distinguished community service organizations in my district.

The Rotary Club of Salem was organized on September 16, 1919. Over the last 100 years, the Rotary has strengthened their community through their mission of providing service to others, promoting integrity, and advancing world understanding, goodwill, and peace through fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.

The Rotary Club of Salem gives back to the community by sponsoring inbound and outbound exchange students, distributing dictionaries to 4th graders in the Salem/Keizer school district, giving grants to local non-profits and by participating in international projects annually. To celebrate their 100 years of service, the Rotary will be building the Gerry Frank Amphitheater, a multipurpose amphitheater at Salem's Riverfront Park to inspire culture and encourage community togetherness.

I would like to extend my congratulations to the Rotary Club of Salem as they celebrate their 100th anniversary and thank them for their service to the community of Salem.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF  
KAREN WILLIAMS CONNELLY

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 12, 2019*

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Karen Williams Connelly, 68, of Niles, Ohio, who passed away peacefully at home, Thursday Sept. 5, 2019, surrounded by family after a long illness.

Karen was born April 7, 1951, in Warren, the daughter of her proud parents, Tom and Luella Knai Williams.

After graduating from Niles McKinley in 1969, Karen attended the Ohio State University and eventually graduated from Youngstown State University. Karen earned a bachelor's degree in social work and later a master's degree in counseling. Karen worked in the mental health field in the Mahoning Valley until her retirement, helping hundreds of people with mental illnesses. She loved her work and her love for people could be seen in all aspects of her life.

On Nov. 29, 1980, she married the love of her life, Tom Connelly, and together they made a life in Niles. Karen loved to laugh and enjoyed hosting parties, picnics and events in her home. Christmas Eve and Memorial Day were her favorite events and her parties became traditions among family and friends. Karen loved to cook and bake and was constantly trying new recipes.

She will be dearly missed by her devoted husband, Thomas R. Connelly; her loving children, Thomas and Laura Connelly and Megan and Brian Gibson; her grandchildren, Lucy Gibson, Max Gibson and Lily Jones; a sister, Patty Williams; a brother Bryan (Lisa) Williams; and many nieces, nephews and friends. Karen was preceded in death by her parents, Tom and Luella Williams.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to Karen's physician, Dr. Zul Mangalji, and the nurses at Trumbull Memorial Hospital for their exceptional care and compassion during her illness.

I am very blessed to have worked with and befriended Karen's husband, Tom, who was the president of AFSCME Local 2026, which represents hundreds of nurses at Trumbull Regional Medical Center. Karen will most certainly be missed by all the lives she touched.

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HONORING "FOOTSTEPS TO YOU:  
CHATTEL SLAVERY" EXHIBIT

**HON. NORMA J. TORRES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 12, 2019*

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Footsteps to You: Chattel Slavery exhibit. This exhibit opened in San Bernardino in 2018 and featured original artifacts and documents from the 19th century to showcase how the institution of slavery has shaped the United States.

Originally from historian Jerry Gore's estate, the collection gives visitors greater insight into the daily abuses inflicted on the millions enslaved in America, and the courage that African women, men, and children demonstrated

while fighting for their freedom. Guests can immerse themselves in newspapers, first-person accounts, and objects of the slave trade. I had the chance to examine up close some of these documents and was reminded that slavery was not just an unspoken evil, but one out in the open, written, and debated in our country. These slave narratives help spark questions about how visitors themselves would have participated in slavery during this time in history.

The exhibit was one of the San Bernardino County programs named as part of the 2019 Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties.

It is my honor to recognize the Footsteps to You: Chattel Slavery exhibit on the House floor today. This exhibit provides necessary insights and education into the experience of a slave in America and has made important contributions to the 35th District that are worthy of admiration.

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HONORING ERIC LARSON ON THE  
EVENT OF HIS RETIREMENT  
FROM THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY  
FARM BUREAU

**HON. MIKE LEVIN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 12, 2019*

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Eric Larson on the event of his retirement as Executive Director of the San Diego County Farm Bureau.

Eric has spent his career dedicated to the agricultural industry in San Diego County. During his forty-eight-year career, he worked in cut flower and nursery crop production, was the General Manager of the California Floriculture Growers Association and served as a board member of the Living Plant Growers Association, the San Diego County Farm Bureau, and the San Diego County Flower & Plant Association.

In 1996, Eric became Executive Director of the San Diego County Farm Bureau, where he helped the Bureau launch San Diego Grown magazine, establish the San Diego Farm & Nursery Expo, and advocated for the needs of local farmers. During Eric's tenure as Executive Director, the San Diego County Farm Bureau was selected as "County of the Year" three times by the California Farm Bureau.

The San Diego County Farm Bureau would not be the organization it is today without the hard work and dedication of Eric Larson. I thank Eric for his dedication to the farmers of San Diego County and congratulate him on his retirement.

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REMEMBERING DON RODMAN

**HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY III**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 12, 2019*

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a good friend, a leader in business and a titan of philanthropy, Don Rodman.

Growing up in a single parent household in Dorchester during the Great Depression, Don

knew struggle and he knew sacrifice. He understood the power of empathy for a neighbor in need and he felt deeply that you are judged not by what you create or build, but what you give back to your community and your neighbors.

A love of automobiles led Don to drop out of high school and enlist in the U.S. Army as a mechanic. Upon completion of his service, he married the love of his life, Marilyn, and began a career in the auto industry.

His talents, intuition and vision didn't go unnoticed for long, as Ford offered him a small dealership in Foxboro, Massachusetts. Working closely with his brother Gerry on this new business, he didn't let that dealership stay small for long and quickly grew it to one of the largest in our Commonwealth.

But if you asked him what he cared about most in life beyond his family, he wouldn't have given it a second thought: it was always philanthropy and giving back.

As he often said, "You can give your time. You can give your shoulder. You can give your heart."

And that's exactly what Don has done for decades. After supporting the Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps, he founded the Rodman Ride for Kids which has raised nearly \$150 million for at-risk children. Even on the day he passed away, 150 kids were enjoying an all-expenses paid trip to Disney World sponsored by his charitable organizations.

You didn't have to know Don to know the impact he had on our Commonwealth and our country, but knowing him was simply inspiring and I was lucky to have grown close to him over the years.

To Don's five sons, Brett, Gene, Bart, Curtis and Craig, I thank them for sharing their dad with us for all of these years. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

RECOGNIZING SHERIFF DAVE CROMELL FOR RECEIVING THE "HUB" PERREAULT CITIZENSHIP AWARD

**HON. JACK BERGMAN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 12, 2019*

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Sheriff Dave Cromell for receiving the "Hub" Perreault Citizenship Award from American Legion Post 131 in Munising, Michigan. Through his exceptional leadership and steadfast devotion to his community, Dave has become an indispensable part of Michigan's First District.

Born and raised in Munising, Sheriff Cromell has dedicated decades of his life to the people of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Dave first joined the Alger County Sheriff's Office in 1975 as a Deputy Sheriff/Animal Control Officer. After revamping Alger County's animal control system, Dave attended Northern Michigan University's Police Academy, where he graduated as a Certified Police Officer. Following the retirement of Sheriff Malone in 1980, Dave was appointed interim Sheriff and was elected by the people of Alger County later that year. Sheriff Cromell would eventually be elected eight consecutive times. Over the course of his extensive career, Dave improved the county's EMT and 9-1-1 emer-

gency response services, oversaw the repair and improvement of the Alger County Jail, and ensured the continuation of the DARE program in area schools—to only name some of his accomplishments. Sheriff Cromell's unwavering dedication to the public good is commendable, and the impact of his work for the people of the Upper Peninsula cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Sheriff Cromell for his decades of service to the people of our state and for receiving the "Hub" Perreault Citizenship Award from American Legion Post 131. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a selfless individual. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Dave all the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING ANDREW CONTON FOR RECEIVING THE MENTEE OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM THE 100 BLACK MEN IN AMERICA ORGANIZATION

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 12, 2019*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Andrew Conton for receiving the Mentee of the Year Award from the 100 Black Men in America organization.

Mr. Conton is a member of the Mentor for Life Program, Central Illinois Chapter. He has been a member since 2016, when the Central Illinois Chapter expanded to Peoria. He is the second individual from Illinois to win this prestigious award. Mr. Conton earned a 3.8 GPA from Peoria High School and has been involved in a variety of extracurricular programs, such as the Peoria High marching and concert bands, the Peoria Jazz All-Stars, the Bradley University and Eastern Illinois University Honors Bands, the Solo Ensemble and the Illinois Music Education Association. Mr. Conton has a strong passion for science, art, politics and music. He further plans to use his strengths to reignite the Peoria community. His determination and drive have earned him a full ride scholarship to attend Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina. I am proud there is such young dedication in our community.

It is because of remarkable leaders like Andrew Conton that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Andrew Conton for receiving the Mentee of the Year Award from the 100 Black Men in America organization.

RECOGNIZING THE JESSE CLIPPER AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 430

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 12, 2019*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100-year anniversary of the Jesse Clipper American Legion Post No. 430 in Buffalo, NY.

The Jesse Clipper American Legion Post No. 430 was founded by 15 African American

World War I veterans on September 16, 1919 to honor Corporal Jesse Clipper who was the first African American soldier from our region to die during World War I. While fighting on the front lines in France, he was badly injured, hospitalized, and unfortunately passed away in February of 1919 before he could return home from the war.

Corporal Jesse Clipper and many other brave African American soldiers who fought for our country have helped to plant the seeds for greater equality and respect for African American soldiers. Their bravery eventually led to the desegregation of the U.S. Armed Forces and the Civil Rights Movement. Corporal Jesse Clipper's willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice proved he was an American patriot worthy of honor and respect.

In honor of this trailblazer, members of the Jesse Clipper Post dedicated the corner of Michigan and William Streets in the City of Buffalo as Jesse Clipper Square in honor of all wars fought by African Americans. This was the same area that Jesse Clipper lived during his formative years that helped shape him into a dedicated and honorable soldier. Later, members of the Jesse Clipper American Legion Post No. 430 petitioned the Buffalo Common Council to establish a memorial to Clipper and all African American soldiers. Since the initial dedication of the monument, the dates of other wars in which African American soldiers fought have been added to the memorial.

As time goes on, we have a duty to remember and honor all those who fought for our country regardless of race and we must never forget the contributions they have made to protecting the security of our nation. We must promise to never forget the burden they carried both on the battlefield, and in their hearts when they returned to a country that did not treat them like the heroes they were and are, solely because of the color of their skin.

Thank you to all the members of the Jesse Clipper Post over the past 100 years who have helped to ensure that all veterans receive the honor, respect and benefits that they deserve.

IN HONOR OF THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEGAL SERVICES ALABAMA

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 12, 2019*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Legal Services Alabama on their 15th Anniversary Award Dinner. Legal Services Alabama provides quality legal services to low-income residents of Alabama, filling a gaping need in a state that does not offer a statewide public defense program.

So often our legal system, whose creation and purpose is to maintain equal justice under the law, regardless of economic factors, connections or other indicators, fails to do so. The reality is that under-resourced individuals are provided decreased access to quality legal counsel, while those who can afford it are granted superior services. This fundamentally contradicts the intent of our court system and undermines the very framework of our country. The work of Legal Services Alabama is to