

Fay has dedicated her life to the betterment of her fellow citizens through a commitment to fighting for the rights of women and minorities, as well as disenfranchised and mentally ill individuals. She has also championed diversity and inclusion in our community and around Central Indiana.

For the past half a century, Fay has served as a board member for several prominent non-profit organizations including the American Red Cross Indiana Region Chapter, Children's Museum of Indianapolis and United Way of Central Indiana. At United Way, she co-launched the Minority Key Club, later renamed the Diversity Leadership Circle, a cornerstone organization with a commitment to diversity through talent acquisition in the community. Fay also went on to establish the Indianapolis Chapter of Coalition of 100 Black Women and served as a founding board-member of the Indianapolis Urban League and Girls Inc. of Greater Indianapolis.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Fay H. Williams for her invaluable and ongoing contributions to our community, state and country.

#### HONORING ASSYRIAN MEMORIAL DAY

#### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2019*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of the Assyrian people. On the occasion of Assyrian Memorial Day, we pay our respects to and remember those Assyrians who have lost their lives to genocide and persecution.

The Assyrian people have faced systematic persecution from the early 20th century to the present day. From 1915 to 1918, 750,000 men, women, and children of Assyrian descent were killed under the Ottoman Empire, while still hundreds of thousands more became homeless and stateless refugees. In the Simele Massacre on August 7, 1933, 3,000 Assyrians were killed at the hands of the then-government of Iraq. In recent years, ISIS committed a brutal genocide against religious and ethnic minorities, including Assyrians, killing thousands of people.

We will ensure these tragedies are never forgotten. I would like to recognize New York State Assemblyman Nader Sayegh for his work in highlighting the valuable contributions that members of the Assyrian-American community have made in my state and across the country. We must recall the commitment of the United States to promoting freedom and human rights for all people regardless of their national, religious, or ethnic identity and remain steadfast in our conviction.

We must continue to speak out against injustice everywhere and contribute to a world in which all people can live without fear of genocide or persecution.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ROBERT LEE SMITH

#### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2019*

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Robert Lee Smith. For decades, Robert pursued public service as a dedicated teacher, school administrator, and a member of the United States Air Force. We have lost a great leader, a tremendous educator, and a dear friend and advisor.

Robert dedicated his life to sharing knowledge. He sought out opportunities through which he could give back to his community, progressing first as a high school valedictorian and scholarship recipient to earning degrees from Florida A&M University and Columbia University Teachers School in education and school administration. As an exceptional Communications Specialist in the United States Air Force, education remained a focus as he additionally served as a part-time instructor and education services coordinator. Robert's service was rewarded with the National Defense Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Outstanding Airman Award. He was Honorably Discharged as a Sergeant on June 10, 1956. Robert knew what it meant to serve his community and our nation. He always went above and beyond to improve the lives of those around him.

Robert's 36-year career in the Broward County School System enriched the lives of thousands of students, having served as a well-respected and cherished elementary school teacher and principle. His leadership expanded far beyond school walls, as he was president of Justice for All in Broward and the Golden Heights Homeowners' Association and he was the first African-American president of the Fort Lauderdale Optimist Club. He was also a leader in the First Baptist Church Piney Grove and his 63-year membership included serving as a Deacon and as Chairman of the Deacon Board. Undoubtedly, Robert's membership to the NAACP and position as Board Chairman for the L.A. Lee YMCA ensured his indelible mark on every facet of our community.

I extend my deepest condolences to Robert's wife, Betty; his daughter, Anitha Rhodette; his son-in-law, Darrell; his grandson, Kamyron; and his entire family during this extremely difficult time. His life and legacy will always live on and he will be dearly missed.

#### CONGRATULATING DICK SHAFFER

#### HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2019*

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Dick Shaffer, one of the recipients of this year's Encompass Health Personal Achievement Award.

Dick's first injury was in 1991 when he fell off a ladder while he got stung by a hornet as he was cleaning his gutters. He shattered his hip as a result of this. Most recently he fell at his home, cutting his head.

Throughout the years he has showed up each time for his rehabilitation with the determination to succeed over his injury, working hard to return to his healthy self.

Despite the challenges he faced, Dick never let his previous injuries deter him from living his life. He still maintains his positive attitude, strength, and love for his family.

Congratulations once again to Dick on this recognition.

#### REMEMBERING WILBERT GREENFIELD

#### HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2019*

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in praise of Dr. Wilbert Greenfield, the 10th President of Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina as well as the 10th President of Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia. Dr. Greenfield passed away last month at the age of 86. As President of the historically black university from 1973 to 1982, Dr. Greenfield strengthened Johnson C. Smith by gaining the financial support of several government and community agencies, by creating an Honors Program and by developing an Archival Center for preserving the university's heritage. He garnered funds to build new dormitories, which had not been done for years. The University's Board of Trustees named Wilbert Greenfield Hall in his honor in 1984. While at Johnson C. Smith, Dr. Greenfield became a founding member of NAFAEO, the National Association for Equal Opportunity In Higher Education and remained a member until his death. The City of Charlotte benefitted by having a growing Johnson C. Smith University on its west side thanks to Dr. Greenfield's efforts.

After ten years of dedicated service at Johnson C. Smith, Dr. Greenfield accepted the position as President of Virginia State University, where he served from 1983 to 1988. During his presidency, the University experienced numerous academic strides. He instituted the expansion and renovation of the Hunter-McDaniel Science building as well as other academic buildings. Additionally, grant funds were secured for an agricultural research building. This vigorous initiative led to the revitalization of the Randolph Experimental Farm, which is located near the University's main campus. It is noted that one of Dr. Greenfield's proudest moments was bringing aquaculture (fish farming) to the Commonwealth of Virginia. Due to his legendary vision, VSU took the lead in Virginia as the pioneer in aquaculture. During his VSU tenure, Dr. Greenfield visited the White House under the Reagan and Bush Administrations to continue strategic initiatives to enhance higher education for minorities. In addition, Dr. Greenfield was named Educator of the Year in 1988 by the Phi Delta Kappa Fraternity, a worldwide organization with more than 150,000 members.

Dr. Greenfield was born on July 18, 1933 in Seven Springs, North Carolina, and earned degrees from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State College in Greensboro and was the fifth African American in this country to earn a PhD in Cardiac Physiology from the

University of Iowa-Iowa City. Dr. Greenfield began his academic career in 1967 as Professor, Chairman of the Department of Biology and Academic Dean at Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi where he taught NFL legend Walter Payton, among others. I wish to express my condolences to Dr. Greenfield's friends, former students and family, and especially to his son George whose technical expertise keeps my Congressional offices running smoothly. Dr. Greenfield will long be remembered in those places where he made such a profound impact and legacy.

#### CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF REVIS BROWN

#### HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2019*

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Revis Brown of Anna, Illinois, who passed away peacefully earlier this month. Revis, born on August 5, 1926, was a decorated World War II and Korean War veteran who served his country as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Immediately after graduating high school, Revis enlisted to serve his country in the Pacific during World War II. While fighting in the Battle of Iwo Jima, Revis was blasted and wounded with shrapnel, but continued to fight on bravely. Though some of this shrapnel remained in his back for the rest of his life, Revis selflessly reenlisted to fight in the Korean War. After his service was finished, Revis worked for the U.S. Geological Survey. Revis Brown was a hero during wartime and an exemplary citizen during times of peace. He was the definition of a true American, and we wish his family and friends our prayers in their time of mourning.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Corporal Revis Brown for his service to our country and his contributions to Southern Illinois. May he rest in peace.

#### RECOGNITION OF REVEREND DEBBIE LEE BRYANT'S FAMILY CELEBRATING 379 YEARS IN HAMPTON

#### HON. ELAINE G. LURIA

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2019*

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Reverend Debbie Lee Bryant celebrating her family's 379th year in Hampton, Virginia.

Reverend Bryant's rich and diverse ancestry in Hampton Roads epitomizes the complex backgrounds so many fellow Americans share by telling the story of the Native Americans who lived on the land we now call home, the enslaved Africans who were brought here by force, and the plantation owners who profited from the properties.

I also wish to commend Reverend Bryant's diligent work as an historian documenting and

researching the origins of the first Africans to land at Old Point Comfort. We must continue to remember the difficult past so we can move forward together as a community toward a better future for all.

I thank Reverend Bryant for sharing this milestone with me and all that she does in our community.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 11 ELEFSON-ZEUSKE'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2019*

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor American Legion Post 117 Elefson-Zeuske as its members celebrate the 100th anniversary of their charter in Shawano, Wisconsin.

Post 117 was chartered on November 1, 1919 in the name of Edwin Elefson as a patriotic veterans organization dedicated to supporting America's service members and veterans. A member of the 32nd Red Arrow Division, Elefson was killed in action on September 14, 1918 in France. He is memorialized at the Oise-Aisne American Cemetery.

The Post held its first meeting on November 17, 1919 shortly after 30 members signed the original charter. In 1942, the Post changed its name to Elefson-Zeuske in honor of Wilmer Zeuske. A Sergeant in the U.S. Army, Wilmer Zeuske was killed in action during World War II.

For 100 years, the Post has been an active member of the greater Shawano community by sponsoring numerous activities with the goal of improving the community, state, and nation. The members work hard to improve youth leadership through school programs, Boy Scout programs, and American Legion baseball.

The Post has helped develop statewide veteran programs to ensure that veterans are cared for when they return home from service. The members of Elefson-Zeuske truly embody the qualities of patriotism and selfless service to this country.

Madam Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in thanking Post 117 for its support of veterans, students, and the Shawano community.

#### HONORING THELMA FIXLER'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

#### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2019*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to mark a tremendous milestone for one of my constituents, Thelma Fixler of Larchmont, who is celebrating her 100th birthday on September 17, 2019.

Thelma has lived an amazing life, filled with some impressive roles. Born in Buffalo in 1919, she started singing at a young age, and

after winning an inter-scholastic vocal contest at the age of 15, she matriculated at the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester. Thelma graduated in 1942 and left Rochester for New York City to pursue a career in opera. A mezzo soprano, Thelma joined the chorus of the Broadway production of the operetta *Rosalinda*. She made her Metropolitan Opera debut on November 22, 1943 in Boris Godunov on opening night of the Met's Diamond Jubilee Year. This was the first time an American-born singer debuted on an opening night. Thelma sang at the Met for seven years, performing 299 times in roles including Suzuki in *Madame Butterfly*, Mercedes in *Carmen*, and numerous "pants" roles.

Thelma met her husband Robert (Bob) Fixler, an Army Air Corps veteran and New York attorney, and the two were wed in 1950. The couple moved to Larchmont Woods in New Rochelle in 1954 with their two young sons, Michael and Peter. The family joined Temple Israel of New Rochelle, and Thelma became an active member of the Sisterhood and served as its president from 1983 to 1985. Thelma spent a number of years as a volunteer with the New Rochelle Meals on Wheels program and with the Coalition for Mutual Respect, an African American-Jewish dialogue group. After Bob passed away, Thelma moved to Larchmont in 1999 and remained an active member of her synagogue, including helping to plan monthly lunch-and-learn events. She regularly attends Met Opera live broadcasts, frequents Westchester restaurants with friends, and enjoys attending Broadway shows and shopping with her grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, on this special occasion I want to personally wish Thelma a very happy 100th birthday and thank her for the years of service and dedication she has shown to the community.

#### CONGRATULATING ROD BARONNER

#### HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 17, 2019*

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Rod Baronner, one of the recipients of this year's Encompass Health Personal Achievement Award.

Rod came to Encompass Health for rehabilitation following brain surgery. When he first arrived, he required a hoist to get him out of bed due to his weakness. Rod had to focus on the basic fundamentals from the beginning, including to lift his head.

As his rehabilitation continued, his wife Rose began to attend more therapy sessions and helped Rod in his recovery.

In 43 days in rehabilitation, he progressed from limited mobility, to requiring only steady assistance to walk with a walker and was able to care for himself. He continues to make progress each and every day and has been able to return to things he loves like camping with his family.

It is thrilling to hear what Rod was able to accomplish with hard work and determination.

Congratulations once again to Rod on this recognition.