

Dr. Grant was armed with a servant's heart and gave of himself in selfless service to many local, state, and national organizations to include: The National Association of Student Affairs Professionals (NASAP); the American Association of Law Librarians; the Benevolent Elks; the Pinochle Club; Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity (Delta Delta Chapter); The Boys and Girls Clubs of Albany; Albany Civil Rights Institute; the American Red Cross; The Dougherty County School Board; and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Dr. Grant was a leader and not a follower. He served as President of the Albany Civil Rights Institute Board of Directors, Chairman of the Dougherty School Board and also served as President of NASAP. Dr. Grant was also a trailblazer and a history maker. As a life member of Kappa Alpha Psi, Fraternity, Inc., he holds the distinction of being one of only six members of the fraternity bestowed with both the Elder Watson Diggs Award and the Laurel Wreath, the highest awards given by the fraternity. He also served as the 16th Southeastern Province Polemarch.

Dr. Grant was a man who exuded confidence. He was indeed an original. He made those with whom he came in contact believe that they could accomplish any task. Dr. Grant's life was truly lived in the words of George Bernard Shaw when he said, "Some people see things as they are and they say why, I dream things that never were, and I say why not?" Dr. Grant lived his life with a "Why Not?" philosophy.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the love and support of his family, his late wife, Dr. Velma Fudge Grant, who was a long time professor of English and Language Arts; his two daughters, Cheryl Lawson and Joi Grady; his grandchildren; godsons; and companion, Judge Denise Marshall.

On a personal note, Dr. Grant was my friend and my fraternity brother in both Kappa Alpha Psi and Sigma Pi Phi. He was always encouraging and supportive of my career in Congress and I will indeed miss his candid and cogent advice and counsel.

Madam Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, along with the more than 730,000 people of the Second Congressional District, and the countless others who were touched by this great man, would like to extend our deepest sympathies to the Grant family. We are proud to have known a man who dedicated his life to the uplift of others. To God be the Glory for the life and legacy of Dr. Cornelius W. Grant.

REMEMBERING ENRIQUE
FERNÁNDEZ TOLEDO

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Enrique Fernández Toledo, who sadly passed in late September. Those of us in the Puerto Rican community—on both the mainland and the Island—will remember Enrique as a tireless champion for the Puerto Rican people. He was also a loving husband, a father and, to me, personally, a dear friend.

Enrique began working in Congress in 1993 as a staffer for my former colleague, Rep. Luis Gutiérrez. During Enrique's two decades working for Congress, he fought for fairness and

greater economic security for Puerto Rico's most vulnerable. His unwavering commitment to justice and thoughtful insight earned him the senior position of deputy chief of staff. Over the decades, I came to rely on Enrique's vision and wisdom on a range of issues and he provided invaluable guidance and perspective to many Members of Congress in all Puerto Rico-related discussions on Capitol Hill.

Following Enrique's service on Capitol Hill, he continued amplifying the voice of millions of Puerto Ricans. In 2018, Enrique joined the Center for American Progress (CAP) as the director of relief and economic development policy for Puerto Rico. There, he was critical to Puerto Rico's ability to access relief and assistance after Hurricane Maria and recover from years of economic malaise.

At this time, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Enrique Fernández Toledo. May he always be remembered for his kindness, indefatigable spirit and the millions of lives he positively affected in Puerto Rico, Chicago and elsewhere. I pray his wife, Mayra; three children, Enrique Jr., Carlos, and Mayrita; and all who knew and loved him, draw strength and peace from his manifold contributions.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
GENERAL GEORGE A. BUSKIRK

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today in commemoration and remembrance of General George A. Buskirk, former Adjutant of the Indiana National Guard, who passed away on October 8, 2019.

Born in 1949 in Indianapolis to George and Mary (Carriger) Buskirk, General Buskirk committed his life to serving his fellow Hoosiers and defending the country he loved. His long record of public service is testament to his dedication to our country.

General Buskirk received his business degree from Butler University, as well as a law degree from Indiana University. He enlisted in the Indiana National Guard in January 1978, where he was appointed as First Lieutenant. Throughout a distinguished military career that spanned four decades, General Buskirk served in a variety of roles, including Defense Counsel, Staff Judge Advocate, Brigade Judge Advocate, Assistant Adjutant General and Adjutant General. Outside of his military career, General Buskirk had an esteemed legal career which included his admittance as a member of the bar of the Supreme Court of Indiana as well as his tenure as the President of the Indianapolis Bar Association.

He will also be remembered for his devoted service to our community. General Buskirk served as National Treasurer for the American Legion for more than two decades, President of the Indiana War Memorial Commission, and he was on the Indiana State Armory Board. In addition, he served as Chairman of the Board of Saint Mary of the Woods College in Terra Haute, Indiana and he was a member of the Ivy Tech Foundation Board of Trustees. In 2016, he was appointed to the Indianapolis Board of Public Health and Safety by Mayor Joseph Hogsett.

I am also particularly honored that General Buskirk served on my Service Academy Committee, where for many years he helped me nominate bright young students in our community to the U.S. Armed Forces' storied institutions of higher learning.

General Buskirk lived an honorable life of service to our community and our country, and he will be greatly missed. I send my deepest condolences to his loved ones.

THE MAN WHO SAVED MANKIND

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, South Carolina is fortunate to have Mark Powell as a columnist for the Lexington County Chronicle to highlight unique facts of history. On October 10th, he recognized "The man who saved mankind".

An elderly Russian man was quietly laid to rest outside Moscow last spring. No crowd mourned him. No news articles reported his passing. Yet, if you're age 36 or older, you are alive to read this because of him. And you've never even heard his name.

This is what happened the night Stanislav Petrov saved the world.

It all started in the late 1970s. The United States and the Soviet Union faced off in the Cold War. President Jimmy Carter's foreign policy vacillated between sometimes talking tough, sometimes going out of its way to accommodate the Soviets. Moscow smelled weakness.

So the Soviets deployed their new SS-20 nuclear missiles. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) upped the ante by announcing it would deploy its powerful Pershing II missiles in Western Europe by 1983 in response.

Suddenly, it felt like we were living in Armageddon's shadow. If you are of a certain age, you'll remember massive anti-nuclear war rallies in the northeast U.S. and Europe, some attracting hundreds of thousands of protestors. A TV movie about a post-nuclear attack called *The Day After* got huge ratings. Rock music songs that played on nuclear fears such as *The Final Countdown*, *It's A Mistake*, and *99 Red Balloons* were big hits. People were on edge.

Which brings us to September 1983. Early that month, the USSR shot down an unarmed Korean Air Lines jetliner over Soviet airspace, killing all 239 people onboard—including an American congressman from Georgia. East-West relations were indeed tense.

At that precise moment Stanislav Petrov unknowingly entered the world stage.

A 44 year-old Air Force lieutenant colonel and father of two, he served in the Soviet's prestigious Air Defense Forces. He was part of the elite team that monitored the Russians' satellites which, in turn, kept an eye out for nuclear missile launches by the U.S. via a spiffy new state-of-the-art computerized system.

Petrov worked the overnight shift. Early on the morning of September 26, the unthinkable happened. "The siren howled," he recalled in a 2013 interview. "I just sat there for a few seconds, staring at the big, backlit, red screen with the word 'launch' on it."

But something wasn't right. The system showed five missiles heading for the Soviet Union. Petrov's training had indicated that if a nuclear strike came, dozens of warheads would rain down on Russia, not just five.

What was going on? Time wasn't on Petrov's side. Every minute he spent trying to figure it out was a minute weapons might be speeding toward his sleeping homeland.

And nobody in the entire Soviet Union was aware of it—except Stanislav Petrov. His standing order was to immediately notify the Kremlin's big brass in such an emergency. His gut instinct told him to wait. As he was making up his mind, the word "launch" flashed in his face.

In the end, he didn't notify his superiors as protocol required. Had he done so, they likely would have ordered a massive retaliatory strike on the United States, very probably ending life as we know it. Instead, he waited. "Twenty-three minutes later I realized that nothing had happened," he said. "If there had been a real strike, then I would already know about it. It was such a relief."

It was the closest the world had come to an actual nuclear conflict since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis.

It turned out Petrov's instinct was right. The computer system had malfunctioned. At first his superiors were pleased with his coolness amid the ultimate crisis. But the Soviets were world-class bureaucrats, and he was later reprimanded for not filling out the required paperwork while the crisis was underway. "I had a phone in one hand and the intercom in the other, and I don't have a third hand (for filling out forms)," he said.

Petrov eventually left the military to work for the very research institute that designed the faulty monitoring system. He suffered a mental breakdown due to the emotional trauma he had experienced, recovered, and eventually retired to tend to his wife during her final battle with cancer.

He was living alone when he died quietly at age 77 last May 19, such an obscure figure that news of his passing wasn't learned until just a few weeks ago.

"They were lucky it was me on shift that night," Stanislav Petrov once said. That's putting it mildly.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA JUROR PAY PARITY ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Juror Pay Parity Act to require that DC Superior Court jurors receive the same pay as federal jurors.

Currently, Superior Court jurors are paid \$40 per day, and, under the Home Rule Act, only the DC courts and Congress have the authority to increase Superior Court juror pay. My bill would require that Superior Court jurors receive the same pay as federal jurors.

In the fiscal year 2018 omnibus appropriations bill, Congress increased federal juror pay to \$50 per day, the first increase to federal juror pay in 28 years. My bill would give Superior Court jurors the same pay.

Under the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997 (Pub. L. 105–33), Congress took responsibility for paying for the DC courts and other state-like functions provide by DC. The DC courts, however, have always been under the control of Congress, even when they were funded by the District. The Home Rule Act prohibits the District government from enacting any law relating to Title 11 of the DC Code. Title 11 provides that the Board of Judges of the Superior Court sets juror pay, but that the pay may not exceed the pay of federal jurors. Therefore, this bill, or action by the DC courts, is necessary to increase Superior Court juror pay.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING FLOYD LOFTON'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Floyd Lofton's service to our country during World War II and in celebration of his upcoming 100th Birthday.

Mr. Lofton was born in West Point, Mississippi on February 22, 1920. He joined the Army on December 5th, 1942 in Little Rock, AR. He was trained as a truck driver and qualified as a sharpshooter in riflery training.

During the war he was deployed to the Pacific Theater of operations and served in New Guinea. He spent 2 years, 2 months, and 13 days in theater on foreign soil. As a result of his service, Mr. Lofton was awarded the WWII Victory Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, and the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star.

Floyd Lofton is a true American Hero from the greatest generation. I invite Congress to join me in thanking Mr. Lofton for his service to this nation and the free world and in wishing him a happy 100th birthday.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JASBIR "GUDDI" KAUR SIDHU

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Mrs. Jasbir "Guddi" Sidhu who tragically passed away on Sunday, October 6, 2019. Guddi will be remembered for her dedicated service to the Sikh community of Fresno, California.

Guddi lived an admirable life and made countless contributions to the city of Fresno. For 25 years, she had a weekly television show and was a founding member of KBIF 900, a local radio station. Her weekend program featured interviews with community members, cultural figures and well-known international songs. Her station was aired not only in Fresno, but also in India and streamed by thousands on social media.

Guddi was a well-known and well-respected leader in the Punjabi Sikh community. She was a member of numerous local groups and

worked hard to preserve the Punjabi culture and Sikh religion for children and families in the community. Guddi was a member of the Sikh Women's Organization for 15 years and was Vice President Sikh Institute of Fresno.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and service of Jasbir "Guddi" Sidhu. She was a respected member in the community and had a passion for the people of the Central Valley.

HONORING THE LIFE & LEGACY OF MELVIN CURTIS WHITLOCK, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Melvin Curtis Whitlock, Jr.

Melvin Curtis Whitlock, Jr. was born on Saturday, June 8, 1957. He was the first born of Melvin Curtis Whitlock, Sr. and Mary Lean Johnson-Whitlock, or "Mary Lean" as she is most affectionately called. As engaged members of their community, Melvin Sr. and Mary Lean's high-spirited union was further harmonized by the joy and laughter Melvin would bring.

As he grew, Melvin became openly passionate and outgoing through his love of music and baseball. He became a member of the band and joined the baseball team during his trajectory at Jim Hill High School. Melvin had a love for motorcycles, percussion, The Temptations, Good Times, and Sanford & Son.

Following high school, Melvin attended Jackson State University. Upon leaving JSU, he married his high school sweetheart and started a family. From their union came three beautiful children which Melvin would tell everyone were his three greatest accomplishments.

Melvin received certification in masonry from Hinds Community College and spent time working with his father, Melvin Sr.

He was known for the phrase, "Y'all think y'all deserve everything on a silver platter", which encouraged his children and others to appreciate the value of earning whatever they wanted in life.

He was an outstanding, faithful member at his spiritual home, Triumph the Church and Kingdom of God in Christ until his passing on September 24, 2019.

Melvin is survived by his father: Melvin "M.C." Whitlock, Sr., mother: Mary Lean Whitlock, daughter: Niki Whitlock, grandsons: Tyler Nelson and Lance Jones, great granddaughters: BellaKay Jones and Emerson Jones, son: Brian M. Whitlock, son: Gerren K. Whitlock, Sr., grandchildren: Gerren Whitlock, II and Cayla Whitlock, brothers: James Whitlock and Marvin Whitlock, sisters: Sandra Moses, Joyce Whitlock, Debbie Whitlock, and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and legacy of Melvin Whitlock, Jr.