

In the summer of 1984, while on vacation in Europe, John McDonald, founder of Boulevard Brewing Company, discovered his love and intrigue for Belgian beers. It was this curiosity and interest, coupled with the opportunity to address a gap in the market that fueled McDonald's dream. Kansas City was once home to more than a dozen breweries, producing a wide array of beers, but had succumbed to the industrial onslaught, leaving the city left with none. This, in conjunction with the homogenous nature of American beers being produced at the time, encouraged McDonald to continue to pursue this interest, embarking on an endeavor that would come to be a social and cultural pillar of Kansas City.

After attending art school, McDonald began home brewing, put together a business plan, sold his house to raise money, and sought necessary resources to start the brewery. In line with his creative background, McDonald's vision for the brewery was innovative, unique, and stood in stark contrast to what many breweries across the country looked like and produced.

McDonald began renovation in an old brick building along the historic Southwest Boulevard, which once housed the laundry for the Santa Fe Railroad. In November 1989, after more than a year of working tirelessly to retrofit the building, the first keg of Boulevard Pale Ale was loaded into the back of McDonald's pickup truck and delivered to a restaurant down the street.

For the first year, the small crew worked lengthy hours brewing, kegging, cleaning, and working to persuade bar and restaurant owners to put Boulevard beers on tap, as the company initially only produced draft beers. Knowing that the bottling of Boulevard's product would open doors to new opportunities and growth, McDonald worked to secure funding for bottling lines. After overcoming rejection by bank after bank, one institution saw promise in Boulevard's vision and enabled the brewing company to install a very small, used bottling line. With this line in place, Boulevard quickly found itself becoming the talk of the town and built a notable reputation for itself.

With its rapid growth came concerns of outgrowing the space in which Boulevard Brewing Company was founded. Faced with the decision to relocate or revitalize, McDonald chose to revitalize the historic building on Southwest Boulevard in 2006 in a \$25 million project that expanded into a new building with a 150-barrel brewhouse, packaging halls, and hospitality spaces. With sales reaching nearly 300,000 barrels, this renovation allowed the company to increase their potential brewing capacity to 700,000 barrels annually. In the years following, McDonald continued to create new products and grow Boulevard's presence. Boulevard soon found their products spanning coast-to-coast, from California to Washington, D.C. by the mid-2000s.

Eventually, their progress came full-circle when McDonald was approached by Michael Moortgat, President and fourth generation leader of Duvel Moortgat, maker of Duvel beer, which first set John McDonald on his journey in brewing. In 2014, Boulevard became part of the Duvel Moortgat family, a collection of artisanal breweries dedicated to the highest expression of the brewers' art.

Today, Jeff Krum serves as President of Boulevard Brewing Company, Brewery Ommegang of Cooperstown, NY, and Duvel

Moortgat USA. Krum has been with Boulevard since its founding and is committed to taking the brewery even further. Krum has also been an active contributor to our Kansas City community in other ways, founding Ripple Glass, which created a local and regional glass recycling solution, and serving on the board on directors of the Kansas City Streetcar Authority, the Downtown Transportation Development District, and the Kansas City Economic Development Corporation.

To this day, Boulevard remains steadfast in its commitment to the original vision and mission set forth by McDonald, helping to redefine American beer while having a lasting positive impact on the Kansas City community. Through these efforts, Boulevard Brewing Company has established itself as the Midwest's largest specialty brewer.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Boulevard Brewing Company's thirtieth anniversary and celebrating their innovation, vision, and impact in Kansas City and beyond.

IN HONOR OF CLAUDETTE COLVIN  
FOR HER COURAGE DURING THE  
CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT AND  
CONTRIBUTION TO AMERICAN  
HISTORY

HON. ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 15, 2019*

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Claudette Colvin, an American Civil Rights pioneer, who on March 2, 1955, at the age of 15, was arrested in Montgomery, Alabama for refusing to give up her seat to a young white woman passenger, becoming one of many to be arrested for challenging Montgomery's bus segregation policies. Nine months later, Rosa Parks was famously arrested for performing the same act of defiance. Although there were hundreds of people arrested before Claudette and Rosa Parks, Claudette along with Aurelia Browder, Susie McDonald, and Mary Louise Smith, were the first to challenge the law in the Alabama courts.

Prior to her historic 1955 stand against racial injustice, Claudette had been studying Black leaders like Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth during Negro History Month in her segregated school. Claudette's classroom conversations led to discussions around the current day Jim Crow laws she and all her peers were experiencing. In describing the significant moment when a bus driver ordered her to give up her seat to a young white woman, and she refused, Claudette says: "Whenever people ask me: 'Why didn't you get up when the bus driver asked you?' I say it felt as though Harriet Tubman's hands were pushing me down on one shoulder and Sojourner Truth's hands were pushing me down on the other shoulder. I felt inspired by these women because my teacher taught us about them in so much detail."

After a year-long battle in the courts, being ostracized by her peers and the community, an older man befriended her, and she became pregnant. In addition, she was a 15-year-old teenager, from a low-income family, and she had very dark skin. Therefore, the leaders deemed Claudette inappropriate to be the face of the Bus Boycott.

Claudette's heroic story was nearly forgotten by history. The story of Claudette illustrates how the role of women in the Civil Rights movement has been largely overlooked. Her actions led to monumental progress in our nation's history. Not only that, her heroic actions led to the rise of other great African Americans. If not for Claudette's brave act, there may not have been a Thurgood Marshall, Robert L. Carter, Martin Luther King, Jr., or Rosa Parks. She truly paved the way for our nation's history.

Claudette, Aurelia Browder, Susie McDonald, and Mary Louise Smith were among the four women plaintiffs to testify in the federal court case filed by civil rights attorney Fred Gray on February 1, 1956, as Browder v. Gayle. On June 13, 1956, the three-judge panel that heard the case in the United States District Court determined that the state and local laws requiring bus segregation in Alabama were unconstitutional. The case went to the United States Supreme Court, which upheld their ruling on December 17, 1956. Three days later, the Supreme Court issued an order to Montgomery and the state of Alabama to end bus segregation. This order not only ended bus segregation in Alabama, but also impacted public transportation throughout the United States, including airplanes, taxis and trains.

In 1987, The 100th Congress designated March as "Women's History Month" in honor of the tremendous contributions of women to society, and to recognize that despite these contributions, the role of women in history has consistently been overlooked and undervalued in our history books. Claudette is testament to the fact that we are still discovering new accomplishments of historical women, and we will continue to shine a light on these amazing icons for years to come. Though their historic acts of civil disobedience were separated by nine-months, Claudette and Rosa Parks remain intertwined in the same movement. Claudette knew Rosa very well, was active in Rosa's youth group, and considered Rosa an inspiration to her own beliefs and actions. Rosa and Claudette's mother, Mary Jane Austin (Gadson), grew up together in Pine Level, Alabama. Her mother used to play with Rosa and her brother Sylvester at Ms. Leona's house, Rosa's mother. Rosa also knew Claudette's great grandfather, Gus Vaughn, who has been mentioned in several of her books.

Madam Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Claudette Colvin's courage to stand in the face of injustice and demand her recognition of her inalienable rights. Because in her own courage to fight for her freedom, she paved a path for millions of others to do the same—because it was her constitutional right.

UNITED STATES EXPORT FINANCE  
AGENCY ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2019*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4863) to promote

the competitiveness of the United States, to reform and reauthorize the United States Export Finance Agency, and for other purposes:

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4863, the United States Export Finance Agency Act. This legislation will reauthorize the United States Export-Import Bank for a decade, increase the agency's capabilities to keep exporters here in the United States competitive worldwide, and ensures that the Export-Import Bank is prepared for the future by establishing offices within the agency focused on clean energy.

Four years ago, Republicans and Democrats in this chamber came together to sign a

discharge petition overruling the desire of a vocal minority that was ill informed about the important role the Export Import Bank plays in ensuring that products produced here in the United States can find buyers around the world. They wanted to shut this agency down. Thankfully, cooler minds prevailed, and the agency was reauthorized.

This agency is vital to the many farmers, small businesses, and manufacturers who export their products around the world from Texas. Approximately 12 billion dollars in exports from Texas are reliant on the Export-Import Bank. Businesses like Continental Electronics Corporation in my district, which produce radio frequency broadcast transmission equipment, rely on the Export-Import

Bank to ensure their high-quality products can be sold to potential buyers across the world. Without the Export-Import Bank, buyers would have to settle for mediocre knockoff products produced in places like China.

Mr. Chair, being from a state where our economy thrives thanks to trade, I understand the importance of this legislation. But it's not just me, labor groups like the AFL-CIO, alongside business groups like the Chamber of Commerce support this import legislation. It's not often that you can get those two groups to agree on something. I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation and for the Senate to take this up immediately so that we can provide certainty to our exporters and continue to grow our economy in the right direction.