

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
KATHLEEN PIERCE-RYAN**HON. LEE M. ZELDIN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. ZELDIN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of my constituent Kathleen Pierce-Ryan, who as an active member of her community, passionate about giving back through her gift of song.

Kathleen Pierce-Ryan was born on April 7, 1931, to Irish immigrants in the Bronx. Her talent for singing became evident early in life, and she developed her voice with her music teacher Sister Gabriel at St. Gabriel's Parish School. Going on to win local singing competitions and receive awards for her performances, Kathleen auditioned at the Metropolitan Opera where she was awarded a scholarship and even performed at a concert in Manhattan Town Hall.

It was her brother who invited Kathleen to perform at the inaugural ceremony at Calverton National Cemetery, and she volunteered there, singing the National Anthem and God Bless America every Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremony, for the next 39 years. Having had the honor of attending many of these services, I can attest that her songs touched the hearts of everyone who had the pleasure of listening and provided solace to those who grieved.

It was during some of the hardest moments in the lives of these veteran families that Kathleen's voice comforted them, her patriotic melodies evoking an everlasting sense of pride. There is no doubt her passing pains the hearts of each and every family she touched throughout her 39 years singing at Calverton. Her voice is now sorely missed across Calverton National Cemetery and our entire community.

This Memorial Day, as we honor the service and sacrifice of the brave men and women who have fought for the freedoms and liberties that make this country the greatest in the world and the families that have stood by their side, let us also remember the so many Americans like Kathleen who have done their part to serve and inspire throughout our great nation.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF BETTY LIGGINS

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Betty Liggins, a nurse and community civil rights activist, whose work tackling rampant crime and drugs in her neighborhood helped create a safe environment for families to thrive and grow.

Although she lost her final battle on May 8, 2019, her legacy as a nurse working out of her mobile health clinic and helping those in need lives on. Ms. Liggins' service was inspired by a chance meeting with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at a civil rights march in Chicago, where Dr. King encouraged her to go back to school, finish her education, and help

others. Inspired by his words, she attended the University of Arizona where she received her degree and became a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) and vowed to use her talents to champion the causes of the voiceless.

Ms. Liggins received many awards for her service to our community. She received the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Drum Major Award" and the National Jefferson Award in 1993 which was awarded in our nation's capital. Her activism and leadership helped lift our community beyond what we could ever imagine, and she was recognized as one of the 25 Most Influential African Americans in Southern Arizona.

Ms. Liggins also took pride in her political activism and worked tirelessly to register voters and use the ballot box for change. An active member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), she continually advocated for criminal justice reform to give incarcerated young African Americans a chance at a better life. Bearing witness to the blatant racism and prejudice of her youth endowed her with the grit and determination to ensure that that mistakes and trauma of the past were not inflicted on future generations.

In that vein, she took on the education system and advocated for better policies to improve the graduation rates of African American students. Instead of being discouraged by a justice system that sometimes turned a critical eye to the poor, and a health system that put corporate interests over the health of her community, she remained motivated to create positive change.

Betty Liggins didn't hold back. Her life is an example of how ordinary citizens with ordinary means can always stand up against the evils of injustice and poverty and accomplish extraordinary things.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I regret that I had a scheduling conflict which caused me to miss the following vote. I would have voted "No" on roll call vote 166.

IN SUPPORT OF THE 2020 CENSUS

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the 2020 Census. Every decade, the Census shapes important local infrastructure and investment decisions like where to build new schools, establish workforce training sites, invest in road and public transportation projects, and fund health care and affordable housing. The Census also determines how many Members of Congress are allocated per state and informs decisions about Congressional district lines, ensuring fair representation.

An accurate Census is vital to the well-being of Washington's communities. That is why I

oppose adding a citizenship question to the Census. By enabling informed decisions, accurate Census data can create jobs, stimulate economic growth and increase employment opportunities for people in Washington's Second District. Adding an un-tested citizenship question will sow fear and lead people to not respond to the Census survey, negatively impacting local communities.

Madam Speaker, I continue to support a well-researched and just 2020 Census to foster innovation, growth and prosperity for Washington state communities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 20, I was unavoidably detained due to inclement weather. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call No. 218, and Yea on Roll Call No. 219.

CONGRATULATING THE BRADLEY UNIVERSITY SPEECH TEAM ON THEIR WIN AT THE AMERICAN FORENSICS ASSOCIATION'S NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bradley University Speech Team on their victories at the American Forensics Association and National Forensic Association national tournaments. Bradley University is the only team to win a national championship every decade since 1980 and is one of the most winning teams in the country.

Bradley's Speech Team is an extremely accomplished program and impressively have now added two more national titles to their long list of championships. The program has also claimed more than 150 individual national champions and has served as a special place on campus for students to come together, tell stories and improve their communication skills along the way. The speech community unites students across the country and provides them with a community to share their passions and discuss topics important to them. I understand the amount of hard work and commitment to have a team as special as this. They are an example of how a strong work ethic and dedication can lead to victory. I am proud there is such young talent in our community, and to see them represent Peoria throughout the state and country. I look forward to following them as they continue their work and build skills that will last a lifetime.

It is because of dedicated leaders such as the Bradley University Speech Team that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate the Bradley University Speech Team on their victories at the American Forensics Association and National Forensic Association national tournaments.

NEW FETAL HEARTBEAT
ABORTION LAWS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my strong opposition to the so-called “fetal heartbeat” laws recently enacted in Georgia, Alabama, Missouri, Texas, and other states.

GEORGIA

House Bill 481 outlaws abortion after six weeks of pregnancy, when a doctor can usually detect a fetus’ heartbeat. Gov. Brian Kemp signed it into law May 7, and it is set to go into effect Jan. 1—unless it is blocked by the courts.

MISSOURI

The Missouri House passed H.B. 126 in a 110-to-44 vote after hours of heated debate, including impassioned speeches by both Democratic and Republican legislators and angry shouts of “when you lie, people die” from those who opposed the bill. Those protesters were eventually removed by the police.

The measure, known as the Missouri Stands for the Unborn Act, now moves to the desk of Gov. Mike Parson, a Republican, who is expected to sign it. The bill, which bans abortions at around eight weeks of pregnancy, often before a woman even knows she is pregnant, included no exceptions for rape or incest.

ALABAMA

Gov. Kay Ivey of Alabama on Wednesday signed into law a bill banning almost all abortions in the state, with no exceptions for cases of rape or incest. Under the law, which is scheduled to take effect in six months, an abortion is only legal if the pregnant person’s life is at risk. A doctor who performs an abortion for any other reason could face up to 99 years in prison.

TEXAS

The Texas Senate approved a bill Thursday that would impose criminal penalties on doctors who fail to treat babies born alive after failed abortion attempts—extremely rare cases—a month after the House approved the same measure. If the House concurs with the Senate’s minor changes to House Bill 16, it will then head to the governor’s desk.

The Senate approved the bill in a 21-10 vote, with Democratic state senators Eddie Lucio of Brownsville and Judith Zaffirini of Laredo bucking their party to support the measure. The measure, authored by state Rep. Jeff Leach, R-Plano, gives teeth to existing federal and state laws that grant legal protections to children born after abortion attempts. Doctors who “fail to provide the appropriate medical treatment”—like immediately transferring the infant to a hospital—could be charged with a third-degree felony, and they would have to pay a fine of at least \$100,000.

MISSISSIPPI

Republican Gov. Phil Bryant signed the bill into law in March which says physicians who perform abortions after a fetal heartbeat is found (typically at around 6 weeks) could have their medical licenses revoked. The state allows abortions after a fetal heartbeat is found if a pregnancy endangers a woman’s life or one of her major bodily functions but does not have exceptions for cases of rape or incest.

OHIO

Gov. Mike DeWine signed one of the nation’s most restrictive abortion bans into

law Thursday afternoon and opponents have already pledged to take him to court. The American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio has already promised to sue over the legislation, which would ban abortions after a fetal heartbeat is detected and prosecute doctors who perform them anyway. A fetal heartbeat can be detected as early as six weeks into a woman’s pregnancy, which can be before a woman finds out she’s pregnant. The “heartbeat bill” passed the GOP-controlled Legislature on Wednesday amid protests from advocates of abortion access. DeWine signed the bill, making Ohio the sixth state to enact the ban. Under the bill, doctors would face a fifth-degree felony punishable by up to a year in prison for performing an abortion after detecting a heartbeat. The bill has an exception to save the life of the woman but no exception for rape or incest—in line with current state law.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE JOHNSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 217—Passage of H.R. 5.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. W. GREGORY STEUBE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. STEUBE. Madam Speaker, I unfortunately missed the last vote on H.R. 5 final passage due to personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 217.

APPLE VALLEY SUPERINTENDENT
OF SCHOOLS THOMAS
HOEGERMAN RETIRES

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. COOK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Superintendent Thomas E. Hoegerman, who will retire from Apple Valley Unified School District on May 22, 2019.

Thomas E. Hoegerman was born September 15, 1959 in Lodi, CA. He attended California State University Sacramento where he earned a B.A. in liberal studies, which he later followed with a teaching credential from the University of the Pacific and a master’s degree from Chapman University. He joined the Apple Valley Unified School District in 1989, where he taught at Yucca Loma Elementary School and later at Vista Campana Middle School. In 1996, Tom joined the District Office, where he has worked to improve education outcomes across the district.

During his time at the District Office, Tom oversaw the construction of both Granite Hills High School and Sitting Bull Academy. He

also implemented class-size reduction, assessment systems, and data analysis programs across the district. His leadership during the restructuring that followed the Great Recession was instrumental in ensuring student success while keeping the district financially stable. Tom has also served in several educational organizations, including the San Bernardino County District Advocates for Better Students, California Association of Health and Education Linked Professions, and San Bernardino Gangs and Drugs Task Force Executive Committee.

Superintendent Thomas Hoegerman has been an incredible asset to the education community in Apple Valley, and he will be sorely missed in retirement. I wish him and his wife Lisa a happy retirement and a happy 30th anniversary this July.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the House passage of the 19th Amendment, which guaranteed women the right to vote. The Senate followed the House two weeks later with passage on June 4, 1919, and the amendment was ratified by the states the following year. This historic centennial offers an unparalleled opportunity to commemorate this victorious milestone of the women’s suffrage movement.

In 1848, a group of women organized a national women’s rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York. Following the convention, the right to vote came to the front and center of the women’s rights movement. Many women like Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, along with Susan B. Anthony and other activists, raised public awareness and lobbied state and federal governments to grant voting rights to women.

Almost 70 years later, in her first term, Jeannette Rankin, the first woman elected to Congress, introduced a Constitutional Amendment to grant women’s suffrage. Several years later, women’s rights groups finally emerged victorious with the passage of the 19th Amendment.

Madam Speaker, our democracy is stronger because of the 19th Amendment, and I am proud to honor women like Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, Susan B. Anthony and other women, who accomplished so much. The efforts of these great American women afford generations to come with the opportunity to vote freely, whether it is in a neighbor’s garage in Escondido, or from a far battlefield defending our freedom.

HONORING SANDY D’ALEMBERTE

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I am saddened to hear of the passing of a truly