

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, on July 12, 2019, my vote for Roll Call 462, Turner of Ohio Part B Amendment No. 386, was recorded incorrectly. I intended to vote NO on Roll Call No. 462, but I was recorded as voting AYE.

RECOGNIZING THE ONTONAGON COUNTY VETERANS ASSOCIATION

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Ontonagon County Veterans Association (OCVA) for over sixteen years of service to Veterans and their families. Through their dedicated service, exceptional leadership, and steadfast devotion to its community, the OCVA has become an indispensable part of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

First formed in 2003, the OCVA represents all eight VFWs and American Legions in Ontonagon County. The organization was first brought together to provide full military honors at all military burials in the county—an endeavor that requires significant coordination and participation from local Veterans. Today, the OCVA Honor Guard leads dozens of burials for Ontonagon Veterans each year. The group also schedules and operates the DAV Van, taking Veterans from throughout the county to the VA Facility in Iron Mountain. This work is made even more difficult by the extreme geographic size and low population density of Ontonagon County. Despite these challenges, the OCVA consistently rises to the challenge in service of our local Veterans.

In addition to their regular work, efforts from the OCVA were critical in returning LS2 Lowell Valley, a sailor on the USS *Oklahoma* killed during the attacks on Pearl Harbor, home for final burial in 2018. Its members are also highly involved in community activities, churches, government, and local businesses. Day after day, the OCVA continues to set a positive example of what can be achieved when the people of a community work together for the common good.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize the Ontonagon County Veterans Association for decades of success and service to the Veterans of the Upper Peninsula. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such dedicated citizens. On behalf of my constituents, I wish the OCVA all the best in its future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF MR. HARRY WATKIN

HON. DAVID ROUZER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of the late Mr.

Harry Watkins of Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina, who passed away late last year at the age of 72.

Harry Watkins got his start in architecture after studying at North Carolina State University. After a 40-year-long career, Harry has left a lasting imprint on Wrightsville Beach, Bald Head Island, Figure 8 Island and many other surrounding communities where he designed many of the homes that still stand there today. He always held a special place in his heart for Bald Head Island.

Harry also helped to grow Wrightsville Beach true to his vision: "The architect must understand the community, the environment, and especially the characteristics of the specific site," Harry said of his design philosophy. He described his idea of what a good home can be as "a joy when things were going well, and a comfort when they were not."

Harry left a legacy of architectural vision and excellence that is visible in each and every community he touched. He is survived by his wife Vicki, his daughter Brooke, and an entire community of friends, neighbors and clients who are forever grateful for his love and influence in their life.

Madam Speaker, Harry Watkins was a great American who has left an enduring and exceptional legacy for which we are all proud.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL LANE HARVEY ON HIS ELECTION AS VICE PRESIDENT OF THE 2019 ILLINOIS FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Michael Lane Harvey on his election as vice president of the 2019 Illinois FFA.

Mr. Lane's background should serve him well in his new position. He served the past few years as his school's FFA representative and more recently as president of Illinois FFA Section 23. In that post, he served the farming interests of thirteen area schools as a state officer. After being voted in by over 400 delegates and over 5,000 members from across Illinois at the 91st Illinois FFA State Convention held in Springfield, Mr. Lane will be taking on even greater responsibilities as he represents over 20,000 FFA members and advisors.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Michael Lane Harvey on his election as vice president of the 2019 Illinois FFA. I have always enjoyed working with our agricultural leaders, especially those in the blue jacket. I would like to extend my well wishes to Mr. Lane, the entire State Officer Team, and all members of the Illinois FFA.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY SAINT PAUL'S STERLING CLUB

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the centennial anniversary of

Saint Paul's Sterling Club, the oldest African American men's club in the nation. Founded at a time when racism and segregation were the norm, and African Americans could not access the same accommodations as white community members, the Sterling Club provided a strong community to allow neighbors to come together and to host and celebrate visiting African American dignitaries.

On a bright and cold New Year's Day in 1918, men from Saint Paul's Rondo neighborhood chartered a bus to spread the word of a new club created for African Americans. The Sterling Club, and later the Women's Auxiliary, would quickly become a cornerstone of the social and civic strength of Saint Paul's African American community. During its first hundred years, the Sterling club has hosted countless events, balls and social gatherings. Above all, the organization's principal purpose was "the proper entertainment of persons of note who may visit."

Officially incorporated on August 28, 1919, the Sterling Club was not a social club in the same vein as others, which typically only catered to community elites and the professional class. Among its ranks one could find, lawyers, architects, government employees and decorated war veterans. Officers and members also included railroad workers, janitors, meat packers, elevator operators and postal workers. Then as now, the egalitarian ethos speaks to the community-building and organizing principles of the Sterling Club.

In 1900s Saint Paul, African American community members were eager to hear from leaders speaking about overcoming the adversity and racism that was commonplace throughout our nation. To address this desire, the Sterling Club began hosting notable and national leaders including Booker T. Washington, William Monroe Trotter and W.E.B. Du Bois. The club remains actively focused on civic engagement and has hosted forums for generations of candidates seeking elected office in Saint Paul. The development of the Sterling Club Charitable Fund has also contributed greatly to the community, sponsoring student scholarships and honoring volunteers who give back to our community.

Despite being a men's group, the longevity and success of the club would not have been possible without the women of the Auxiliary. Spouses of club members long played a significant role in fundraising, planning and organizing. Without shrewd and savvy women of the Auxiliary scraping together enough funding, the club likely would not have been able to survive past the Great Depression and World War II to flourish in the post-war years.

The Sterling Club has always relied on the collective experience and abilities of members to organize, resist, thrive and give back to the community. Founded in a time and place where the color of your skin could mean the difference between a comfortable life or a life at the margins, the Sterling Club stands tall as an example of how a community coming together can claim the American Dream in the face of adversity of prejudice and discrimination and forge a new and better future for everyone. Madam Speaker please join me in celebrating 100 years of Saint Paul Sterling Club.

ERIKA STROUD NAMED TEXAS'S
BEST TRAINERHON. PETE OLSON
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sugar Land Public Safety Dispatcher Erika Stroud for being named Texas's best trainer by the Texas Association of Public Safety Communications Officials and the Texas National Emergency Number Association.

As a public safety dispatcher, Erika's quick decisions can make the difference between life and death in emergency situations. When training Sugar Land's public safety dispatchers and answering emergency calls, Erika holds herself and her team to the highest standards and ensures that recruits are ready to help folks in need no matter the time, day or night. She is also a member of the Critical Incident Stress Management Team, which ensures that our dedicated first responders have access to critical mental health resources.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Erika Stroud for this award. I thank her for her commitment to keeping our Sugar Land community safe.

CELEBRATION OF THE FORTIETH
ANNIVERSARY OF HABITAT FOR
HUMANITY OF KANSAS CITY

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Fortieth Anniversary of Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City. As a leader in nonprofit homebuilding, Habitat for Humanity is dedicated to ensuring suitable and affordable housing for all. Since its creation, Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City has improved hundreds of lives in six counties of the Greater Kansas City area and the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri. Wholly devoted to establishing stability and security in the community via improved housing, Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City provides tools to build self-reliance and lightens the burdens many homeowners face. Through these programs, they create opportunities for families to invest in their future and thrive.

John and Mary Pritchard founded Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City in March of 1979, now the seventh oldest branch of Habitat for Humanity International. In their first year, the Pritchards, with the aid of board members, local churches, and community groups, purchased seven properties which they turned into homes. The Middlebrooks, Habitat's first homeowners, moved to the corner of Linwood and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and were able to pay zero-percent interest on their mortgage for twenty years. The hard work of volunteers, families, and community members have allowed Habitat of Kansas City to continue building, renovating, and renewing over 700 homes in their forty years in the area.

Building off their success in constructing homes, Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City

created ReStore, a retail store which sells donated home furnishings and construction material to families trying to renovate their homes at an affordable price. Additionally, they built their House of Abraham in 2003, an interfaith endeavor between the Christian, Jewish, and Muslim communities in the Greater Kansas City area. It seeks to promote understanding between faiths by having adherents work together to build and restore homes. Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City also established the HOPE financial literacy program which assists Habitat homeowners with long-term credit and budgeting.

Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City is just one branch of an international organization, which aids people across all 50 states and 70 countries. Habitat International was founded in 1976 and has helped more than 22 million people due to their core belief that housing should be accessible to all. Habitat for Humanity constructs and restores homes, and then counsels families on investments and finances to help them keep their homes. When a family can afford a safe and stable home, they can then invest in other needs such as health care or the education of their children. Habitat for Humanity creates a ripple effect throughout communities, not only providing a safe shelter, but also a prosperous and strong future for families. They are champions for one of the core values of our country—opportunity for all, regardless of income or background.

Madam Speaker, please join me, Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, and those around the nation in honoring the Fortieth Anniversary of Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City. Their commitment to bettering the community through building and restoring houses for families in the region is admirable and worthy of our recognition.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF HULL, TEXAS

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th Anniversary of the First Baptist Church of Hull located in east Liberty County, Texas.

On July 19, 2019, a group of dedicated Christians met in a home for the purpose of organizing the First Baptist Church of Hull, Texas. On July 24 of the same year, Mr. S.E. Beavers donated two lots of land for a church site. Mr. Beavers was later elected as a Trustee of the church and his widow was the last surviving of the fourteen charter members. The original church building was built from lumber salvaged from the neighboring abandoned sawmill community of Budconner.

On January 4, 1956, the church voted to construct the present auditorium, which was completed in 1957 and dedicated on August 31, 1958. The original frame of the church building was used for several Sunday school classrooms until the current education building was completed on December 13, 1969. In January of 2012, First Baptist voted to build a Family Life Center.

Over the years, the church's resiliency has been tested through several natural disasters:

the flood of 1994, Hurricane Ike in 2008, and Hurricane Harvey in 2017 each caused considerable damage to First Baptist's property. Hurricane Harvey inundated it with several feet of water, wiped out nearby Hull-Daisetta Elementary School, and caused considerable damage to much of the surrounding community.

During the aftermath of Harvey, the damaged Family Life Center at First Baptist served as a distribution center for supplies and provided meals for first responders, disaster relief crews, and local residents. Each time the church was damaged, church members, aided by groups like the Texas Baptist Men's (TBM) Builders, have rebuilt. To date, the parsonage has been restored and work on the sanctuary and education building is ongoing.

In addition to being on the receiving end of mission efforts following natural disasters, individuals and groups from First Baptist Church, Hull have been missionaries at home and abroad. The church has made several trips to bring the Gospel to the people of Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras. They have also aided in many construction mission projects, conducted numerous Vacation Bible Schools for children and young adults residing in the surrounding community, and have been active at the East Texas Baptist Encampment in Newton, Texas.

Throughout the past century, the First Baptist Church of Hull has had twenty-seven pastors. Although most have been "full-time," some have been bi-vocational. On October 19, 1919, Rev. R.L. Nash was called to be the first pastor on a part-time basis. The first full-time Pastor, Rev. R.W. Lindsay, began serving First Baptist on September 26, 1920. The first deacons were elected on May 29, 1921. The church is actively seeking a pastor at this time.

On July 20, 2019, my brothers and sisters in Christ at the First Baptist Church of Hull will celebrate 100 years of delivering God's word to the people of Hull, Daisetta, and the surrounding communities. The Lord has used this historic church as an amazing witness for a century, and I am privileged to have such a place of worship in my district.

COMMEMORATING THE ONE HUN-
DREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
WAVERLY ROTARY CLUB

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the Waverly Rotary Club.

In 1919, the Waverly Rotary Club was established under the sponsorship of the club in Elmira, New York. As they elected their first President, Hart Seeley, this newly founded branch of Rotary International made a commitment to service in their community.

The Rotary International motto is "Service Above Self," and Waverly Rotary has embodied that principle over one hundred years of supporting community service projects. The Waverly Rotary Club is a proud sponsor of a strong Student Exchange Program that was established in 1951. For decades they have fostered positive international relationships for