

REMEMBERING HÉCTOR FIGUEROA

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember Héctor Figueroa, a champion for workers' rights, an advocate for immigrants, a New Yorker, a passionate Puerto Rican and my dear friend. Above all, Héctor was a fighter for the vulnerable, the down-trodden and those who were treated unfairly. Sadly, Héctor passed last week. He will be honored at a public service on Wednesday in New York City.

Héctor Figueroa was known most notably for his leadership of 32BJ SEIU. Under his leadership, 32BJ SEIU grew by over 50,000 members and passed dozens of local and state-level policies. Héctor previously worked as SEIU's Organizing Director for Puerto Rico, winning collective bargaining rights for teachers, as well as for SEIU's Justice for Janitors campaign and a researcher for Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (Workers United).

Most recently, Héctor was central to building support for relief in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria. Born in Ponce as the son of two educators, the Island was near and dear to his heart. In the dark months following Hurricane Maria, Héctor was critical to mobilizing support among New York's Puerto Rican community, 32BJ members and non-members alike, to send aid to the Island and build political momentum for Washington to do better in channelling assistance to our fellow citizens as they struggled through a humanitarian crisis.

Throughout his life, Héctor made waves as a progressive fighter for justice for all people. He was relentless in advocating for the rights of the doormen and doorwomen, custodial workers, airport security guards and others who constituted 32BJ's membership. However, he was also on the frontlines helping taxicab drivers, fast food workers and laborers in every sector achieve fairer wages and improved conditions. To him, anyone who was oppressed was an ally and he was ready to join arms with them and march in common cause.

His belief that all workers were deserving of respect and kindness extended beyond his work as a labor leader; it infused his very demeanor. Héctor treated everyone, from the youngest organizers, to the most junior political aides, to the most powerful elected officials with the same kindness and warmth.

Whether it was fighting to expand healthcare, protecting immigrant communities from ICE, strengthening voter rights or addressing the threats of climate change, Héctor was on the frontlines of every battle related to economic and social justice. Just last week, this House voted to raise the federal minimum wage, a milestone achievement, years in the making. I like to think wherever he is, that victory would bring a smile to Héctor's face.

New York City and working people everywhere have lost a champion. I, personally, have lost a dear friend. From my earliest days in politics, I could always count on Héctor for wise advice and kind counsel. I'll miss our days together and fighting alongside one another. While he was taken from us too young, we'll honor his memory by continuing to ad-

vance the causes that inspired him. As Héctor always said, "We'll keep organizing." Yes, my friend, we will.

RECOGNIZING THE DC GRAYS
BASEBALL TEAM

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the DC Grays for their commitment and contribution to increasing interest and youth participation in baseball and softball in the District of Columbia. In particular, I want to recognize the DC Grays 2019 summer college baseball team and the annual Capitol Hill reception.

The DC Grays is a talented collegiate summer baseball team that, in addition to competing in the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League, strives to engage inner-city youth and their families with baseball. Their mission is to be "ambassadors for baseball" in the District by running summer baseball camps and clinics for D.C. youth.

Named for the champion Homestead Grays from the Negro Leagues, the DC Grays reaches out to African-American ballplayers who may have been overlooked by other teams.

The DC Grays partners with Major League Baseball (MLB) to further help its mission of providing disadvantaged youth an opportunity to learn and enjoy the game of baseball. The programs help motivate young players to stay in school and pursue secondary education. MLB's RBI program helps teach youth not only the importance of success on the field but also in the classroom and the community. This year, the DC Grays RBI is sponsoring two summer baseball leagues and two travel softball teams for kids from Wards 6, 7, and 8 in D.C.—in addition to fall ball programs and winter training. There are 250 kids participating in DC Grays RBI programs this year.

Last year, the DC Grays participated in MLB's unveiling of the new Josh Gibson mural on U Street across from Ben's Chili Bowl, and their players attended an event to honor Jackie Robinson as part of MLB's all-star festivities. They strive to honor the Negro Leagues and its role in Washington baseball history. Each year, the DC Grays hosts a salute to Negro League Baseball in collaboration with the Hubert Simons League Museum.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House to join me in commanding the DC Grays for the important work it has done and continues to do in the community. We wish the DC Grays luck in continuing to inspire and engage disadvantaged youth.

RECOGNIZING THE CHAMBERS
COUNTY COURTHOUSE ON ITS
DESIGNATION AS A TEXAS
STATE HISTORICAL MARKER

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Chambers County Courthouse

for its designation as an official Texas State Historical Marker.

Named after Texas pioneer Major General Thomas Jefferson Chambers, Chambers County was established in 1858. Until the early 20th century, Wallisville was the county seat and the location for the first three Chambers County courthouses built in 1858, 1880 and 1887 respectively. However, Anahuac's rice canal system and the presence of wild hogs in Wallisville prompted an election in 1907 that made Anahuac the county seat in 1908.

After the election and the move, the county constructed a new courthouse. Completed in 1912 at its current location, the new municipal building included a jail, indoor plumbing, telephones, and electric lights. Built in the Renaissance Revival style, its imposing figure boasted large columns and a stone exterior. The building, however, burned down on April 28, 1935.

Later in 1935, County Treasurer Grover C. Wilcox desired a modern courthouse "in line with the growth of the town." As a part of federal New Deal programs, the Public Works Administration contributed funds for the design and construction. Designed by Corneil G. Curtis and built by notable contractor Robert E. McKee, construction finished in May 1937 on the three-story, ashlar limestone building. A combination of art deco and modern architectural styles (1920s to 1940s), the courthouse's exterior showcases vertical lines, a symmetrical façade, geometric shapes, and simple ornamentation. Since its construction, little has changed about this unique building. Throughout its history, the Chambers County Courthouse has not only acted as a focal point of the community but has also reflected the county's economic, political and social history.

As a former member of the Texas Historic Commission, I know this is a great honor for the community. I wish all of my friends in Chambers County well as they celebrate the dedication on July 23rd.

HONORING ARKANSAS'S KOREAN
WAR VETERANS

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Arkansas's Korean War veteran commemorations. This summer, the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs is honoring the men and women who served our country and defended South Korea during the Cold War.

In an oft-forgotten chapter of history, Korean War soldiers from the United States provided vital assistance to the South Korean army. During a volatile time, their service prevented North Korean forces from taking over the entire Korean peninsula.

Arkansas has a rich history of bravery and patriotism, and I'm honored to recognize our Korean War veterans at these commemoration events. I thank each one of them for their service, and hope their legacies continue for generations to come.

HONORING THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MINNESOTA ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the International Institute of Minnesota on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. The Institute's original mission is as vital today as it was after World War I when it welcomed refugees fleeing strife and instability in their homelands and helped them achieve self-sufficiency and full membership in American life.

In 1919, leaders of the Saint Paul YWCA came together to address an urgent need in the community to serve those who were arriving to Minnesota, displaced in the aftermath of the "War to End All Wars." Out of this effort, the Institute became one of the first state resettlement voluntary agencies (VOLAGS).

The onset of World War II saw the need for the Institute's services to expand. During this time, the organization partnered with the War Relocation Authority, helping to free Japanese-Americans from internment camps and working as translators and codebreakers at Fort Snelling. At the end of the Vietnam War, many refugees were displaced from Southeast Asia to Minnesota, particularly ethnic Hmong and others from Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. Since 1974, the Institute has resettled approximately 25,000 refugees from every region of the world, including recent arrivals from Somalia and Myanmar.

As economists point to increasingly tight labor markets and a growing scarcity of workers as two of our state's most significant barriers to sustained economic growth, the Institute contributes to our economic vitality by opening the door for those pursuing the American dream. By partnering with new Americans on a path to citizenship, entrepreneurship and full membership in our community, state and country, the Institute has empowered thousands of new Americans to become our trusted doctors, business leaders, teachers, engineers, scientists, policemen and soldiers.

Recognizing that new Americans enrich our state in many ways, the Institute honors and shares our state's growing diversity and fosters cultural understanding. For nearly 90 years, the Institute's Festival of Nations has drawn thousands of people together each May to celebrate the many traditions that are shared by Minnesotans. Through this festival, Minnesotans can better appreciate how as a state and nation of Native Americans and immigrants, our strength is our diversity of backgrounds, viewpoints and religions.

The motto inscribed on the Great Seal of the United States: "E Pluribus Unum—Out of Many, One" underscores that the foundation of our nation has always been the collective power of many different people coming together. For 100 years, the International Institute of Minnesota has proudly supported our nation by welcoming and empowering new refugees and immigrants from different backgrounds to come together as new Americans.

Please join me to congratulate the staff, volunteers and donors to the International Institute of Minnesota for providing 100 years of

hospitality, empowerment, hope and opportunity for new Americans.

CONGRATULATING JOHN F. MITTON FOR BEING VOTED INTO THE TEXAS RADIO HALL OF FAME

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate John F. Mitton from Missouri City, Texas for being voted into the Texas Radio Hall of Fame.

Mitton, president of a national advertising agency based in Sugar Land, is one of only twenty Texas broadcasters who will be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Inductions will be held on November 2, 2019, at the Texas Museum of Broadcasting and Communications. Mitton has always had a strong suit for "listening to his clients . . . [and] helping develop and refine some of the best niche products ever featured in Texas radio."

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to John Mitton for being elected into the Texas Radio Hall of Fame. Texas has benefited from his contributions to radio. We are very proud of him and this incredible accomplishment.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBERT J. FRIEND

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Lieutenant Colonel Robert Jones Friend, who died on June 21, 2019 in Long Beach, California, surrounded by his family. Lieutenant Colonel Friend was a member of the heroic unit known as the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II.

Robert J. Friend was born on February 29, 1920, in Columbia, South Carolina, to William A. Friend and Nella Mae Jones Liner. His father was an immigrant from Ecuador and a veteran of World War I. The oldest of four children, Robert was an aviation enthusiast from a young age, often building model airplanes and reading stories of World War I pilots during his childhood. While studying at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, he joined the Civilian Pilot Training Program where he earned his pilot's license in 1939.

Despite his passion for aviation, he was denied entry into flight training by the Army Air Force because of his race. Instead he joined as an air-cadet in the all-black 99th Pursuit Squadron, nicknamed the Tuskegee Airmen. During World War II, Lieutenant Colonel Friend flew 142 missions for the 322nd Fighter Group. He began his tour in North Africa and was later sent to the European Theater to serve as a Combat Operations Officer where he was instrumental in orchestrating tactical air missions. He specialized in flying the P-47 and P-51 Mustang aircraft. He experienced multiple death-defying disasters, including when he had to abandon his plane over the

mountains of Italy and when a German oil barge explosion nearly grounded his aircraft. He became the primary wingman to his commanding officer, Colonel Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., who would become the first black general in the Air Force. Robert and his fellow airmen were later awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for their service to our country.

After his service in World War II, Lieutenant Colonel Friend continued his education and received a degree in astrophysics from the Air Force Institute of Technology, later graduating from the University of California, Los Angeles Business School. Additionally, he continued his career in the military for 28 years by serving as an operations officer during the Korean and Vietnam wars, working on the Delta, Titan, and Atlas rocket programs, and operating as an executive of the aerospace companies, Stanford Mu and Fairchild Stratos. Following his retirement from military service, Robert started an aerospace company and conducted speaking engagements, remaining dedicated to sharing the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen and keeping their history alive.

Robert J. Friend is survived by his children: Thelma Hoffman, Robert, Jr., Michael, Debra Carter, Karen Crumlich, Clara Ann Browning, 18 grandchildren, 32 great-grandchildren, and 14 great-great-grandchildren. The memory of his son, Darryl, who was killed while on active duty in 2002, continues to live on today.

It was my great honor to have known Lieutenant Colonel Friend, an intelligent, hard-working, and spirited man who spent his life in service to our country. I ask all members to join with me in remembering Lieutenant Colonel Robert Jones Friend, a true American hero.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

SPEECH OF

HON. KENDRA S. HORN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, the U.S. Government is entrusted by the American people with certain responsibilities. One of these responsibilities is managing our government's finances and using taxpayer dollars wisely. In the last few decades, our government leaders have too often ignored this responsibility, opting rather to pay lip service to responsibly managing our budget but neglecting to do so in practice. This neglect has led to rampant spending, missed budgetary deadlines, and burdensome borrowing that have become mainstays of every Congress, regardless of which party holds the majority. The 116th Congress must take action to break this unsustainable cycle and restore the fiscal responsibility Americans have entrusted us with.

The 2019 GAO High-Risk List reveals that many federal government programs are over budget. This financial situation is not specific to one government agency or program. It can be found across the federal government. America must remain a world leader in many areas, such as scientific research, reliable infrastructure, and defense technology, and I understand that to do so requires large financial investments. However, it is also my responsibility as a Member of Congress to ensure the money our government spends is