

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I unfortunately was unable to be present for votes taken on the House Floor on February 26, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: Roll Call Vote No. 71: YEA; Roll Call Vote No. 72: YEA; and Roll Call Vote No. 73: YEA.

IN HONOR OF SHIRLEY GREGORY

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is an honor and privilege to recognize a dedicated public servant who continues to make our community proud as a Ward Leader. As public officials, entrusted by their peers to oversee elections and party activity, Philadelphia Ward Leaders represent a corps of unsung heroes that help facilitate the progress that molds our city. I am honored to be joined by one of our most distinguished, esteemed Ward Leaders today, and in commemoration of Black History Month, ensure that their contributions to our city remain enshrined in our historical record for generations to recognize.

Black History Month is more than a mere byline on the month of February, it is an opportunity to celebrate and recognize the extraordinary contributions that the African American community has made, and continues to make, on our nation's history and culture. And I can think of no honoree more deserving of this recognition, who embodies the selfless commitment to their neighbors and peers, than Shirley Gregory.

Shirley Gregory of Ward 49 is no stranger to Congress after serving as Congressman Bob Brady's District Director. She embodies the qualities that make for a successful Ward Leader by facilitating candidate meet and greets, hosting ballot machine demonstrations, and helping our officials disseminate information to the public. She keeps her finger on the pulse of local, state, and federal politics, helping those of the 49th ward learn how they can get involved and make a difference in their community. With Shirley as the Ward Leader, I know every resident in her community has a friendly face and helpful resource. She is a staple in the city, and I am grateful of our overlap as we look to serve the people of Philadelphia. I thank Shirley.

Taking after the long lineage of Philadelphians who have helped sculpt our democracy into an increasingly inclusive system that encourages public participation, Shirley Gregory has left her own mark on our city. I look forward to years of collaboration so we can create a more inclusive, representative democracy throughout our community.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF NEWMAN FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Newman First Christian Church on its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary.

Newman First Christian Church was born in the hearts of a small band of believers in 1870. An early focus of Newman First Christian was to make disciples of Jesus, and so for the first sixteen years the church did not have a regular minister and services were led by lay leaders, evangelists and circuit riders. As the congregation grew in spirit as well as in numbers, it soon outgrew its facilities. A new building was built to the glory of God on the corner of Green and King streets in Newman in 1904 and is used to this day for worship.

Throughout its history, pastors have generally served for short periods of time, the longest being only four years. Then in 1950, the church called Reverend Wolfe and for thirty-seven years he served as its minister. After his death, the congregation took a step of faith in a new direction and in 1987 Newman First Christian became a "teaching congregation." It was led by faithful men and women, preachers, and ministers until, under the leadership of Perry Albin and Laverne Fraser, the church recruited its current pastor, Justin Smith, in November of 2017.

The church is serious about loving Jesus, as well as creating opportunities for community involvement, spiritual growth, and outreach. Newman First Christian, for example, continues to provide meals to various local school sports teams and prayer for local school events, sponsor community events, and offer biblical counseling to the congregation and community. This focus on service and outreach has improved the spiritual and physical well-being of countless people in the community.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure I stand to recognize Newman First Christian Church on its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary. I wish Pastor Smith, the congregation, as well as the community of Newman, all the best for a bright and joyous future.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BAKU POGROMS

HON. KATHERINE M. CLARK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 30th anniversary of the anti-Armenian pogroms in then-Soviet Azerbaijan's capital of Baku.

In January 1990, a violent seven-day long riot in Baku broke out against the city's ethnic Armenian civilian population. Approximately 90 Armenians were killed, and hundreds more were brutally beaten and forced to abandon their homes. The Baku Pogrom was just one of several anti-Armenian attacks that took place across Azerbaijan from 1988 to 1990

that were enabled by the Azerbaijani government. From Sumgait to Kirovabad and Baku, Armenian Christians living in the country were murdered, raped, and robbed. These vicious attacks led to the displacement of thousands of Armenian families fleeing the targeted violence as refugees.

These were crimes against humanity that have still gone unrecognized by Azerbaijan. I call upon their government to acknowledge and condemn these acts of violence, actively prosecute the perpetrators of these crimes, and take all appropriate action so that these atrocities never happen again.

Throughout history, the Armenian people have been targets of violence, murder and genocide. We must emphatically condemn these actions and any efforts to erase these atrocities from our collective memory. Failure to do so will only serve to embolden purveyors of violence against religious and ethnic minorities around the globe. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Armenian Caucus to continue pushing policies promoting peace and human rights for Armenians and for all.

If we do not stand up to hate, we cannot end the cycle of intolerance.

IN HONOR OF PETER LYDE

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is an honor and privilege to recognize a dedicated public servant who continues to make our community proud as a Ward Leader. As public officials, entrusted by their peers to oversee elections and party activity, Philadelphia Ward Leaders represent a corps of unsung heroes that help facilitate the progress that molds our city. I am honored to be joined by one of our most distinguished, esteemed Ward Leaders today, and in commemoration of Black History Month, ensure that their contributions to our city remain enshrined in our historical record for generations to recognize.

Black History Month is more than a mere byline on the month of February, it is an opportunity to celebrate and recognize the extraordinary contributions that the African American community has made, and continues to make, on our nation's history and culture. And I can think of no honoree more deserving of this recognition, who embodies the selfless commitment to their neighbors and peers, than Peter Lyde.

Peter Lyde, the Ward Leader for the 61st ward, helped shape our city's justice department and is a long-tenured labor organizer. In this modern age where technology has allowed more and more people to access information with ease, Peter has ensured the residents of Ward 61 can find helpful guidance on their political questions, and information on upcoming events, by following their active social media accounts. As we look to bring in new participants to the political sphere, Peter models the innovation that will expand the electorate and allow new voices to take part in our political process. With ward cookouts, community gatherings, and seasonal events, he brings politics to his constituents, encouraging

engagement in ways that I admire. I thank Peter.

Taking after the long lineage of Philadelphians who have helped sculpt our democracy into an increasingly inclusive system that encourages public participation, Peter Lyde has left his own mark on our city. I look forward to years of collaboration so we can create a more inclusive, representative democracy throughout our community.

IN HONOR OF KATHERINE
JOHNSON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise with my colleagues today to honor the life of Katherine Johnson and to celebrate the achievements of her 35-year career at NASA and its predecessor, NACA. Her passing has been felt around the world, but her legacy lives on in so many ways.

Katherine Johnson will forever be remembered for her tenacity in spite of the challenges women and African Americans faced in the workforce, as well as for her aptitude for mathematics that became central to the nation's success in landing the first human on the surface of the Moon. Her life and her accomplishments are inspiring to all, especially to young women and African Americans who dream of pursuing a career in STEM. May future generations look to Katherine Johnson and her fellow Hidden Figures' dedication to advance the NASA space program with admiration and know that they too can follow in the footsteps of those talented women.

As we pursue our nation's human spaceflight programs and advance into the next phases of space exploration, we will always remember the immense role Katherine Johnson played to get us to where we are today.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 99TH
BIRTHDAY OF RUBLE RAY GARDNER

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I ask for the House's attention to recognize Mr. Ruble Ray Gardner who will be turning 99 on March 1, 2020.

Mr. Gardner was born on March 1, 1921, and served his country in the Army and Air Force. During his service, he was stationed in Africa, Great Britain, the Middle East, Germany, Paris, Alaska, Italy, the North Pole, Arctic Circle and other locations.

His wife, Ruth "Boots" Gardner, joined him in Great Britain.

During his military career, he received numerous medals including two Silver Stars, one Bronze Star and a Good Conduct award.

Following his service in the military, Mr. Gardner was employed by the United States Postal Service.

He was a resident of Childersburg, Alabama and a member of the CornerStone Church of

Christ. He currently lives at the Bill Nichols State Veterans Home in Alexander City.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Ruble Ray Gardner and wishing him a very happy 99th birthday.

IN HONOR OF SHARON VAUGHN

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Sharon Vaughn, Leader for the 42nd ward, is transforming how this role can impact people's lives. Sharon, a dedicated employee of the City Council, serving as Chief of Staff to Councilman at Large Derek Clark, has used her ward position to ensure her constituents understand the impact of public policy on a granular level. The residents of Ward 42 are lucky to have such a knowledgeable, dedicated representative who can articulate intricate policies in a digestible way. Her understanding of how government can serve as a conduit for change is truly an asset for those living in Ward 42. I thank Sharon.

Taking after the long lineage of Philadelphians who have helped sculpt our democracy into an increasingly inclusive system that encourages public participation, Sharon Vaughn has left her own mark on our city. I look forward to years of collaboration so we can create a more inclusive, representative democracy throughout our community.

CHESAPEAKE BAY GATEWAYS AND
WATERTRAILS NETWORK REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2427, the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network Reauthorization Act.

This bipartisan bill will provide robust, long-term federal support for the Chesapeake Bay

Gateways Program, which helps increase public access to the Bay.

As the largest estuary in the nation, the Chesapeake Bay extends through six states and the District of Columbia. It's home to more than 18 million Americans and thousands of species of plants and animals.

However, roughly 98 percent of the Chesapeake Bay's 11,684 miles of shoreline is privately owned, leaving only a small fraction of shoreline available for public use.

The Chesapeake Bay Gateways Program helps maximize this tiny fraction of public shoreline by improving infrastructure, signage and exhibits at key public access points throughout the Bay Watershed. The program also supports education initiatives that connect young Americans with the Bay Watershed and help instill a passion for environmental stewardship.

To date, the Gateways Program has invested more than \$20 million in 300 projects across the Bay Watershed, helping boost our region's outdoor recreation economy.

This small investment over the last few decades has not only succeeded in promoting meaningful educational and recreational experiences for Marylanders and residents across the region but has also helped the National Park Service fulfill its responsibilities under the Chesapeake Bay Agreement.

As a key ally in the effort to restore the Chesapeake Bay, the National Park Service works to increase land conservation, public access to the Bay, environmental stewardship, diversity and environmental education—all of which is supported by the Gateways Program.

By connecting more Americans with the Bay, we can deepen ties to one of our country's most important environmental treasures, inspire future generations of environmental stewards and give a tremendous boost to our region's economy.

I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for supporting this small, but mighty program.

I urge my colleagues to vote yes on this bill.

IN HONOR OF TODD MARTIN'S
DECADE OF SERVICE TO THE
24TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
OF TEXAS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Todd Martin, a member of my District Office staff for over a decade, for his outstanding and dedicated service to the United States House of Representatives and to the Twenty-Fourth Congressional District of Texas.

Todd joined my staff over ten years ago initially as an intern, following his graduation from Baylor University in Waco, Texas with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing. He didn't stay an intern for very long, as with his sharp talents he was quickly hired on to the permanent district office staff as the Director of District Affairs. Throughout his time in my office, Todd has been an integral part of the team, working diligently to provide outstanding constituent service and helping to manage the daily operations of the district office. During this time, Todd has conducted