

TRIBUTE TO KATHY ARNOLD TAFT

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute in memoriam to Kathy Arnold Taft in honor of the opening of the Kathy Taft Center for Excellence and Leadership in Education in Greenville, North Carolina. Kathy was raised in eastern North Carolina and was a passionate educator, taken from us too soon on March 9, 2010. Kathy graduated cum laude in 1981 from East Carolina University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education.

She spent many years as a public health instructor in both Raleigh and Greenville. She served as vice chair of the Pitt County Board of Education in Greenville and was a founding member of the Pitt County Communities in Schools program. Kathy served on the Board of Governors for the Governor's School of North Carolina from 1986 to 1992 and in 1995, was appointed by Governor Jim Hunt to the state Board of Education. She also devoted her time as a guardian ad litem volunteer, was a member of the East Carolina University Women's Roundtable, an Educator's Hall of Fame Inductee, and was honored by the Order of the Cupola.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the legacy of this incredible woman; she was a wonderful educator and dedicated public servant who served as an example to us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRENDA L. LAWRENCE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, on March 9, 2020, I was not able to cast my votes during the vote series due to personal engagements in the district. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted: YES on H. Res. 410—Encouraging reunions of divided Korean-American Families, as amended (Rep. BASS—Foreign Affairs); and YES on H.R. 1771—Divided Families Reunification Act, as amended (Rep. MENG—Foreign Affairs).

CHRISTINA REGMI

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Christina Regmi for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award.

Christina Regmi is a student at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Christina Regmi is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all

levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Christina Regmi for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
KATHERINE JOHNSON**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Katherine Johnson, one of the first African American women ever to work at NASA, whose brilliant mind and countless contributions helped to make both flight in space and our space center in Huntsville, Alabama, possible.

Mrs. Johnson spent thirty-five years at NASA, during which time she used her remarkable mind to master even the most complex manual calculations and helped to pioneer the early use of computers. Her work was instrumental to launching Alan Shepard, the first American in space and John Glenn, the first American in orbit. Mrs. Johnson worked at NASA during a time when African American women were largely banned from taking advantage of such career opportunities, however, her grit, determination and indubitable brilliance helped her to persist, tearing down barriers for African Americans and for women.

At eighteen, Mrs. Johnson enrolled at the historically black West Virginia State College, where she found a mentor in math professor W. W. Schieffelin Claytor, the third African American to earn a PhD in mathematics. She graduated with highest honors in 1937 and took a job teaching at an African American public school in Virginia.

In 1939, West Virginia State's president, Dr. John W. Davis, selected Mrs. Johnson and two other African American men to be the first black students to attend West Virginia University, which was historically white. Mrs. Johnson resigned from her teaching job and enrolled in the graduate math program to become a full-time student. She did not complete her degree, deciding instead to leave school to start a family with her first husband, James Goble. She returned to teaching when her children got older.

In 1952, a relative told Mrs. Johnson about a job opportunity at the all-black West Area Computing section at the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics' (NACA's) Langley laboratory. Mrs. Johnson and her husband decided to move the family to Newport News, Virginia, to pursue the opportunity, and Katherine began work at Langley in the summer of 1953. Just two weeks into her tenure in the office, she was assigned to a project in the Maneuver Loads Branch of the Flight Research Division. She spent the next four years analyzing data from flight tests and worked on the investigation of a plane crash caused by wake turbulence. Just as she was completing this work, her husband died of cancer in December 1956.

In 1957, Russia launched Sputnik, the first successful satellite to be launched into space, and the United States immediately began efforts to beat Russia and become the first country to put a man into space. Mrs. Johnson was selected to provide math for "Notes on Space Technology," a collection formed by NACA engineers who became part of NASA when that agency was formed in 1958.

Mrs. Johnson went on to do the trajectory analysis for America's first human space flight by astronaut Alan Shepard in 1961. She worked closely with Ted Skopinski, a male engineer, to co-author "Determination of Azimuth Angle at Burnout for Place a Satellite Over a Selected Earth Position," a report on the equations for an orbital spaceflight with a landing site target. It was the first time a woman in NASA's Flight Research Division received credit for authoring a research report.

In 1962, John Glenn was preparing for his orbital flight and was hesitant to trust the new computers' calculation of his orbital trajectory. He relied on Mrs. Johnson to cite her calculations on syncing the Apollo Lunar Model with the orbiting Command and Service Module. This was known as Mrs. Johnson's greatest contribution. After this successful event, she authored and co-authored 26 research reports before retiring in 1986. Mrs. Johnson was then awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama, and played by Taraji P. Henson in the movie "Hidden Figures" about NASA's black women pioneers.

Mrs. Johnson fought through discrimination and adversity, proving to America and to the entire world not only that African Americans were just as capable as white Americans, but that women were just as capable as men. In many ways, she displayed even more patriotism, as she overcame adversity in order to serve her country. Katherine Johnson's legacy is one that should make the state of Alabama truly proud. She is a part of Alabama's remarkable legacy of advocating for civil rights, proving that the determination of African American women can change the course of history, not only for our country but for the entire world.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the exemplary service of Katherine Johnson. May we celebrate her resilience and sacrifice every day.

DOROTHY (DOTTIE) WHAM

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Dorothy (Dottie) Wham, a great Coloradan, wife, mother and grandmother.

Dorothy Stonecipher was born January 5, 1925 in Centralia, Ill. She died peacefully on October 20, 2019, surrounded by loving family and friends. She was married to her husband Bob, her high school sweetheart, for 65 years and had three children, Nancy Mitchell and husband Rohn, daughter Jeanne Ryan and husband Brent; son Robert S. II and his wife, Jamie Shaffer; five grandchildren, numerous nieces, nephews and friends. She is also survived by brother Ernest Joseph Stonecipher, Jr.

In 1946, Dottie graduated from MacMurray College in Jacksonville, Ill. where she earned a bachelor's degree and a Master of Arts degree from the University of Illinois in 1949. After coming to Colorado in 1950, and then moving to Denver in 1953, Dottie's interest in politics was sparked. In 1952, she worked for Dwight Eisenhower's presidential campaign collecting contributions, which irritated both her family and Bob's family as they were backers of the more conservative Robert Taft of Ohio. She then took an interest in immunization issues, which brought her to Montrose, Delta and Mesa counties where she helped to organize immunization drives. Dottie continued to pursue her interest in public health and worked for a federal agency for 10 years. She also led the Colorado Civil Rights Commission

from 1972 to 1980 and served on the boards of several metro area mental health organizations.

In 1984, Dottie was first elected to the Colorado State House. She was appointed to the Colorado State Senate when Sen. Cliff Dodge stepped down in November 1987. She won election to that seat the following year, and handily won re-election twice more. During Dottie's tenure at the legislature she chaired the Senate Judiciary Committee from 1989 to 2000. Her legislative focus remained centered on her passion for health policy, including mental health issues. Dottie was term-limited in 2000.

She was one of the first state lawmakers to carry legislation requiring reporting of HIV and AIDS in Colorado. Dottie's bill, Senate Bill 157

in 1990, laid down a marker for how individuals with HIV or AIDS should be treated, stating that any such infection should not serve as the basis for discrimination or prevention of access to services.

I was privileged to know Dottie for many years and to call her my friend. It was an honor to work with her in the Colorado State Senate. I admired her focus and effectiveness. She never shied away from a tough challenge. She was one of the smartest, toughest, shrewdest and kindest people I have ever met, and I appreciated her tireless work ethic and service to the people of Colorado. I extend my deepest appreciation to Dottie Wham for her dedication to her community and to the people of the State of Colorado.