

RECOGNIZING FIRE CHIEF AND
EMERGENCY COORDINATOR
STEVE LANDIN

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 22, 2020

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and service of Fire Chief and Emergency Management Coordinator, Steve Landin. Chief Landin has retired after 30 years of service as a member of the City of Laredo's Fire Department.

Chief Landin is an individual who showed true leadership and poise under great pressure. Since first becoming emergency management coordinator in 2005 and eventually Fire Chief, he helped lead the City of Laredo through three federally declared disasters as well as the ongoing pandemic. In addition, despite these difficult circumstances, he also managed to be a devoted family man and example for his community.

I have personally worked with Chief Landin over the years and witnessed first-hand the important work he has done for our area. Through his efforts, he helped ensure that Laredo's Fire Department was amongst the best in the country. In addition, he has set the standard for future fire department leaders.

Chief Landin's service to the City of Laredo will never be forgotten. He cared deeply about the people he was serving and consistently showed what it meant to always put the safety and well-being of others first. The dedication that he showed to us all should be a constant reminder of how we should be in our daily lives.

However, Chief Landin's service to others is not over. He will now be working for Webb County as its new Emergency Management Coordinator. Once again showing his commitment to others and devotion to our community.

As we move forward, let us take the time to appreciate the service of heroes like Chief Landin and all the individuals who risk their lives each day to keep us safe. However, in the words of President John F. Kennedy, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

HONORING STEPHEN KONZ

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 22, 2020

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Stephen Stanley Konz for a life of service to his country, his family, and his community.

Steve was born in Poland on September 6th, 1926 to Lillian Kwiatkowski and Michael Rosinski. As a three-month-old baby he came to America through Ellis Island in the arms of a teenage mother. He joined the Navy at age 17 where he served until the war ended in August 1945.

After the war, Steve moved to Republic, Washington to teach fifth grade. During this time, he raised five children, built a log home, and grew a cattle herd. While the log home burned in 1978, it was rebuilt with the help of friends and neighbors.

Steve was passionate about politics, advocating for the Constitution, individual freedom, property rights, limited government, and the right to bear arms. Steve was deeply involved in the community as a member of the Kiwanis Club, Grange, PTA, local school board, Cattlemen's Association, and Washington Farm Forestry Association. He also served as the manager of the Ferry County Fair, the President of the Republic Chamber of Commerce, and a district court judge for 14 years.

A captivating storyteller, Steve often had listeners laughing and crying. In 1994, at age 75, Steve drew up plans to convert his ranch into a guest lodge. The foundation was completed in 2000, and for the next 17 years Steve could be seen with a smile on his face, working every day from dawn to dusk to complete his dream lodge.

Steve Konz passed away at age 90 in the lodge he built, on the ranch he loved, with family at his side.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of a grateful nation and Washington's Fifth Congressional District may we rise to remember Steve and his legacy. His service and passion will inspire generations to come.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF JOE
"CAPTAIN" HYDE

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 22, 2020

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Retired Captain Joe Hyde, who passed away in his home on June 10 surrounded by family.

Captain Hyde, a 1965 graduate of Independence High School, served with the Southaven Police Department for 31 years. He was one of the fast investigators and first SWAT team members to serve the Department and continued to serve the Senatobia Police Department for another 10 years. Captain Hyde, also a part of the Mississippi National Guard, was one of only two officers to receive the Department's Medal of Honor, its highest commendation, for valor, combat, and life saving skills.

Left to cherish his memory is his wife, Barbara; his stepchildren: Kim Mitchell (Ricky), John Parker (Christy), and Christy McGregor (Kevin); as well as many friends and extended family members.

I am thankful for Joe "Captain" Hyde's service to Mississippi. He will be greatly missed by his family, community, and all whom he encountered.

IN MEMORY OF EARNESTINE
"WARNET" DAVIS

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 22, 2020

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Earnestine Davis, a beloved resident of the city of Detroit.

Earnestine Warnet Davis was born on January 18, 1951 to the late Dulcy B. Smith and Hubert Lee Lockett in Detroit, Michigan.

Earnestine, affectionately known as "Warnet" or "Net", was the eldest of five children. She embraced the role of leader and "big sister," often helping her mother with caring for her younger brothers and sisters.

Upon graduating from Detroit's Mumford High School, Warnet moved to Miami, Florida to live with her late father, Hubert Lockett, and his wife, Dale Lockett, to attend Miami Dade Community College. In 1969, she married the love of her life, Michael Davis, Sr., who preceded her in death. They returned to Detroit to focus on raising a family. Warnet and her husband were blessed with five beautiful children: Desmond Michelle, Michael, Dulcy Marquita, Leigh Christine, and Robert Trevor-Blair Davis.

Determined and strong-willed, Warnet did not let the challenge of raising a large family deter her from accomplishing her life's goal of becoming a nurse. After the passing of her husband Michael, Warnet reenrolled in college. Focused and driven, Warnet juggled raising her children with long hours of study and hard work to realize her dream. In 1986, Warnet graduated with two degrees and with Honors from the distinguished Nursing Program at Highland Park Community College. Warnet's passion for the healing arts drove her to focus on passing her state licensing exams to obtain her professional licensing to become a License Practical Nurse (LPN) and Registered Nurse (RN). Succeeding in her goal, Warnet enjoyed a long career in nursing, specializing as a psychiatric care nurse attending to those with mental illness. Her love for her career was evident to all who knew her.

Even while managing a busy career, Warnet made the most of her time spent with family. She was known as the life of the party and took joy in organizing large family gatherings at her home. She held a keen appreciation for the preciousness of life and always went out of her way to bring family together. This sensibility extended into Warnet's strong spiritual life. She served as a deaconess at Park United Presbyterian Church in Highland Park, Michigan for many years, where she organized numerous community events.

Please join me in tribute to Earnestine Warnet Davis, a generous soul who will be missed by her family and community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COVID-19
HOSPITAL LOAN FORGIVENESS
ACT

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 22, 2020

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the COVID-19 Hospital Loan Forgiveness Act to provide immediate, vitally needed relief to hospitals and health care providers who are under water as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our nation's hospitals have invested heavily to prepare for the coronavirus pandemic. They canceled tens-of-thousands of elective surgeries and non-emergent patient tests at the government's request to help ensure adequate hospital capacity, preserve gear and equipment, and reduce the risk of unnecessary patient spread. This major shift has put some of America's hospitals on the brink of financial disaster.

Without further support, hospitals will face another financial crisis just months from now as the government begins to withhold Medicare payments for services provided after the pandemic fades and until the loans are repaid. While the \$175 billion provider grant program, designed to provide support to all providers, is helpful, much more support is needed.

This legislation will provide Medicare Accelerated and Advance Payments loan forgiveness to ensure the additional financial support hospitals and other providers direly need. Forgiveness would be for health care related expenses or lost revenues that are directly attributable to coronavirus. And, just like the requirement in the provider grant program, providers electing to have their advance payment loans forgiven would be obligated to abstain from balance or surprise billing any patient for COVID-related treatment.

The bill outlines: forgiveness would be for health care related expenses or lost revenues that are directly attributable to COVID-19, providers electing to have their advance payment loans forgiven would be obligated to abstain from balance billing any patient for COVID-related treatment, and criteria for transparency and accountability of the loan forgiveness, including no executive compensation.

Hospitals across my district have shared that in the absence of more financial support, including this forgiveness, it is possible some hospitals will be forced to close or significantly scale back operations. This would be a tragic consequence, especially if the country is hit with another round of the viral epidemic in the near future. I thank my colleague and fellow Ohioan Representative BOB GIBBS for his bipartisan work on this, and our growing list of bipartisan cosponsors—we look forward to working with the Senate to further action on hospital loan forgiveness.

MAREK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CELEBRATES THEIR 2020 KINDERGARTEN CLASS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 22, 2020

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marek Elementary School in Alvin, Texas for their work making their kindergarten class' graduation special amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Students and parents were caught off-guard by schools closing their doors for the rest of the school year in March due to the coronavirus. Many worried that their students would not experience their last days of kindergarten. However, the staff at Marek Elementary came up with a creative way to stay safe while celebrating its younger learners: a drive-by parade.

The Marek Elementary staff held the parade so that the students had a fun way to say goodbye to their kindergarten year without going inside the building. Music, decorated cars and costumes filed in outside of the school to let students know the pandemic would not stop their graduation.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I thank the staff of Marek Elementary for making sure these students were able to celebrate moving onto first

grade. Congratulations to the kindergarten students of Marek Elementary for finishing their kindergarten year.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF GEORGE WASHINGTON BIGGS

HON. RUBEN GALLEGOS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 22, 2020

Mr. GALLEGOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 95th birthday of George Washington Biggs, and recognize his service as a veteran of Army Air Corps and Air Force. As a Tuskegee Airman and recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal, he is an exemplary American and Arizonan to whom we all owe a debt of gratitude.

A native of Nogales, Arizona, Mr. Biggs joined the Army Air Corps in 1944 and trained at the Tuskegee Institute, the all-black flight training school in Alabama. He was one of two Arizonans to graduate from the program. After training during World War II, Mr. Biggs re-enlisted in the Army Air Corps as a non-commissioned officer and subsequently received direct commission as an officer in the newly formed United States Air Force. He went on to achieve the rank of major and flew B-47 and B-52 bombers in the Korean and Vietnam wars.

Since retiring from the military, Mr. Biggs has lived and worked in Nogales for the U.S. Customs Service. He has raised a family and since retired. In 2007, Mr. Biggs and other Tuskegee Airmen received the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian recognition awarded by Congress, for the group's "unique military record that inspired revolutionary reform in the Armed Forces."

I believe that Mr. Biggs' character and actions truly embody what it means to serve one's country. Not only did he fly in multiple wars, he rose above expectation and obligation as a pilot and an officer. In addition to his time in the Army Air Corps and Air Force, his integrity, modesty, and principled character are values that we can all learn from and should strive to emulate.

I would like to express my personal appreciation for the service of George Washington Biggs, and my hopes that he has a happy 95th birthday.

IN RECOGNITION OF RALPH BUNCHE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 22, 2020

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the great history of Ralph Bunche High School in King George County, Virginia. As one of the first African-American schools to receive equitable contributions in its funding, Ralph Bunche High set the standard for our nation in addressing racial inequality.

At the time of Ralph Bunche High School's inception, America was still under the wing of the discriminatory Jim Crow laws. It was a

somber period where African-Americans were treated unjustly and were not afforded equitable opportunities. Moreover, school segregation made it such that African-American students were not sufficiently supported in terms of decent provisions in technology, infrastructure, and even quality of education.

Finally, on July 29, 1948, Civil Action 631 set the stage for the construction of Ralph Bunche High School and provided much-needed relief for the students that attended the school. Just like other prominent civil rights leaders, the plaintiffs for this case faced the same dangers from radical segregationists. Nevertheless, the brave plaintiffs, composed of pupils and concerned parents, persevered and provided a great service to their community by advocating for equal financial distribution for African-American students.

The construction of Ralph Bunche High School was a landmark event for King George County. The school's namesake has a noteworthy history in serving both his community and country. For instance, his steadfast efforts in achieving the 1949 Armistice Agreements between the Arab states and Israel culminated in his award for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1950. In addition, during the Civil Rights Movement, Dr. Bunche played a significant role by participating in iconic events, like the 1963 March on Washington.

To sum up, the legacy of Ralph Bunche High School lives as strong today as it did in 1949. Among the first cases to be brought forward, Civil Action 631 begun a series of cases that ultimately led to the integration of African-American students nationwide and mandated that the latter receive equitable educational support. Having the school named after Dr. Bunche proved highly commendable and the school's designation as a State and National Historic Landmark was well-deserved.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask that you rise with me in remembering the history of Ralph Bunche High School, the heroes that participated in its birth and those who continue the legacy to preserve educational equality.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF JASON TERRELL

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 22, 2020

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Jason Terrell, who passed away on Tuesday, June 9, after a long battle with cancer.

Jason was born on July 10, 1974, in Indianola, Mississippi. Shortly after graduating high school, Jason joined the United States Marine Corps and fought our nation's enemies during Operation Restore Hope Somalia. He went on to obtain the rank of Corporal, and later joined the Mississippi Highway Patrol. Jason not only patrolled Mississippi highways, but also served as an expert marksman for the Mississippi Highway Patrol SWAT team. When Sargent First Class Terrell was not patrolling Mississippi highways, he was hunting, fishing, or worshipping at First Baptist Church of Vardaman.

Left to cherish his memory is his wife, Tara Winter Terrell; daughter, Maddie Terrell; mother, Beverly Charlotte Mitchell; step-father,