

patients underscore the importance of bringing additional awareness to rare diseases.

Despite the many challenges, some progress has been made. More than 840 drugs and biologics have been approached by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment of rare diseases. However, Congress must do more to combat rare diseases. In addition, more work needs to be done to bring attention to the needs of those who struggle with rare diseases, and to celebrate their courage. That's why Rep. HUDSON and I are reintroducing this important resolution. Each year, many individuals with rare diseases and their loved ones celebrate Rare Disease Day to share their stories and educate communities of researchers, health professionals, governments, and community organizations about how rare diseases affect them.

In 2019, more than 100 countries observed Rare Disease Day. Our resolution expresses support for the designation of the last day of this month as Rare Disease Day. Congress should recognize this work and improve our efforts to address the challenges facing the rare disease patient community.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join us in supporting Rare Disease Day's designation on the last day of February to better champion people with rare diseases. I urge the House to support this resolution.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT
EASTERN CARL, JR.

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a community leader and friend, Robert Eastern Carl, Jr., who passed away on Saturday, February 20, 2021, at the age of 90. Robert was a longtime resident of Tyler County and had the respect of all who knew him.

Robert was born on July 17, 1930, in Camden, Texas, to Estelle Miller Carl and Robert Eastern, Sr. As a young adult, he was called to aid his country in the United States Army and fought in the Korean War. Following his time in the military, he returned to Tyler County and went to work as a rigger for Texaco. While employed by Texaco, he dutifully served as Board President of the Texaco Credit Union for 15 years. After his years of service, he began his well-deserved retirement. Robert was the man to call whenever you needed anything fixed. No matter who called, he never hesitated to come to the aid of his fellow man. Robert was devoted to his family and loved the Lord with all his heart, soul, and mind. He was a faithful member of First Baptist Church of Woodville and a dedicated deacon for many years. In his spare time, he also enjoyed hunting and fishing with friends and loved ones.

Robert is survived by the love of his life and wife of 66 years, Gay Carl of Woodville; daughter, Debbie Darville and husband, Roy, of Marshall; sons, Keith Carl and his wife, Lori, of Port Neches and Kevin Carl and his wife, Peggy, of Buna; brother, James Carl of Nederland; sisters, Eunice Vinson of Chester and Ann Adkinson and her husband, Ira, of Porter; grandchildren, Brian Darville, Andrew Darville and his wife, Heather, Mattie Riu and

her husband, Tim, Michael Carl and his wife, Laura, Alison Carl, Emily Carl, Amy Tallerita and her husband, Beau, Zachary Carl and his wife, Channing, Seth Carl, Chloe Carl, Sophie Carl, Jonathan Carl and his wife, Jessica, and Matthew Carl and his wife, Melissa; great grandchildren, Kyson Darville, Blake Darville, Emerald Riu, Felix Riu, Annette Carl, and Charlotte Carl; and special friend, Jimmy Telford. He is preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Estelle Carl; brother, Earnest Lee Carl; and sisters, Joyce Best and Rita Chandler.

Madam Speaker, I honor my friend Robert Eastern Carl, Jr., for his faithful service to his community. My thoughts and prayers remain with his family and friends during this difficult time.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF ELRETA MELTON ALEX-
ANDER-RALSTON

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, in celebration of Black History Month, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Elreta Melton Alexander—an educator, barrier breaker, civil rights advocate, and renowned officer of the court. She was the first Black woman in North Carolina to be licensed and practice as a lawyer, to argue before its Supreme Court, and to be elected a judge.

Elreta Narcissus Melton was born on March 21, 1919, in the small eastern North Carolina town of Smithfield. Her father, Joseph C. Melton, a Baptist minister and teacher, and her mother, Alian A. Reynolds Melton, a schoolteacher, had strong beliefs about the importance of education and refused to perpetuate the narratives of racial injustice. The family later moved to Greensboro, North Carolina, where in 1937, at the age of eighteen, Alexander graduated from North Carolina Agricultural & Technical College, now North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, with a Bachelor of Science degree in music. Upon graduation, she became a high-school teacher in South Carolina where she taught music, math, and history.

Encouraged by a Greensboro minister, Alexander decided to attend law school and pursue a legal career. Because of the limitations for Black student admittance into law schools in North Carolina, Alexander applied and was the first Black woman admitted to Columbia Law School in 1943 at the age of twenty-four, and became the first Black woman to graduate from Columbia Law School in 1945. In 1947, after passing the North Carolina bar exam, Alexander became the first Black woman to practice law in North Carolina. After establishing a large solo criminal practice in Greensboro, Alexander formed one of the first integrated law firms in the South, Alston, Alexander, Pell & Pell. During her career as a trial attorney, she added to her list of "firsts" when she became the first Black woman to argue before the Supreme Court of North Carolina.

On December 2, 1968, Alexander became the first Black judge elected in North Carolina and the first Black woman in the United States to be elected district court judge. Alexander

was re-elected in 1972, 1976 and 1980. One of her most notable accomplishments as a District Court Judge was her innovative juvenile sentencing approach called "Judgment Day", which focused on rehabilitating young offenders and misdemeanants as an alternative to sentencing. Judge Alexander ran for the Republican nomination for the Chief Justice position on the North Carolina Supreme Court in 1974. Battling persistent racism in the state, she lost the election to a White man named James Newcomb, a fire extinguisher salesman with no college degree or legal background. However, her loss prompted a later-adopted constitutional amendment requiring judges to first be attorneys licensed in North Carolina before they can rightfully hold the position as judge. Her presence in the courtroom brought about great change and needed perspective; however, she did not win every battle and every election. Despite the perception of defeat, the barriers that Alexander faced laid the groundwork and opened doors for a better tomorrow.

While Alexander faced many challenges throughout her educational pursuit and legal career, she refused to let her circumstances define her destiny as she forged her own path led by her passion and conviction for justice and equality.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the people of the First District of North Carolina, I am proud to recognize and celebrate the life and legacy of a true pioneer and Black History icon, Elreta Melton Alexander-Ralston.

HONORING THE CAREERS OF BILL
AND JANE FOX

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bill and Jane Fox of Fox Dealerships in Central New York as they settle into well-deserved retirements. For nearly fifty years, Bill and Jane, siblings and co-owners of Fox Dealerships, have operated a thriving local business and demonstrated great generosity and care for the community they serve.

Growing up in Manheim, Pennsylvania, Bill and Jane gained an early appreciation for the automotive industry by spending their summers working with their father, a used car wholesaler. In 1976, Jane purchased her first auto dealership in Weedsport, New York, while her brother practiced law in Syracuse. Jane became one of the first female dealers in the Northeast and established herself as a leader in the industry. In 1979, Bill left his law firm to grow the family brand with the purchase of a second dealership in Auburn, New York. Over 40 years, Bill and Jane expanded their business, owning as many as 14 dealerships, and becoming a household name in Central New York.

Across Central New York, the Fox family has also become well-known for philanthropy and investment in the community. Local schools, hospitals, and charities have all benefited from both Bill and Jane's time and resources. The siblings have also always shared a strong commitment to hiring local workers and promoting them to senior positions.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in recognizing Bill and Jane Fox. Together, they have made a tremendous impact in our region through their business and efforts to give back to the community. I wish them both the best in their retirements.

HONORING OLIVIA SAMPLES AS
IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding member of our community, Olivia Samples, by nominating her as our Iowan of the week. Olivia is a certified doula and small business owner, focused on providing quality services to families as they prepare for prenatal, childbirth and postnatal care. Three years ago, Olivia read an article about the maternal health crisis and felt a deep calling to put her skills to good use. While Iowa has amongst some of the lowest stillbirth rates in the country, Black people are twice as likely to experience stillbirth than the general population. To put that into perspective, 1 in 121 Black people will experience a stillbirth as compared to the 1 out of 234 white people. The mortality rate is unfortunately just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to birthing and new parenting issues that face Iowa's Black community. These stats along with the lower quality prenatal care that was being provided to Black women in the community inspired Olivia to become Iowa's first Black doula.

Olivia leads her business, Kismet Doula Services, with the mission to cultivate collective care and liberation to her clients through providing them a safe, loving environment to ensure they can become and remain healthy and well. Her services include prenatal, childbirth, lactation consultation and postnatal support for her clients. However, Olivia goes above and beyond for her clients, going as far as to help with laundry, prepare meals for them and secure funds for those who need assistance purchasing necessary items for postnatal care and parenthood. She strives to make sure her services are accessible to all by providing mutual aid options, free services through certain organizations and will even barter or trade with her clients.

Beyond providing direct support to her clients, Olivia also organizes workshops and partners with several community organizations. In her first few years as a doula, she realized that the voices of new parents were missing when it came time to discuss legislation that would affect their well-being. As a result, Olivia organized the Celebration of Black Kin Conference for this April focusing on Black maternal well-being in our community. Olivia also gives back to the community by partnering with the Young Women's Resource Center to provide free doula services as well as the Iowa Queer Communities of Color Coalition to ensure all types of families are able to receive the quality pre and postnatal services they deserve.

Olivia jumps in headfirst to solve the problem and gives it her all. The success of her business and the high praise from her commu-

nity reflect the significant impact she has had on the lives of pregnant people in Iowa. That's why I would like my colleagues to rise with me and recognize this exemplary woman, Olivia Samples, as Iowan of the Week.

HONORING DR. CAROLYN PASS
FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, Dr. Carolyn Pass was born in Lake Wales, Florida. She earned a B.S. in microbiology from the University of Florida and an M.D. from the University of Miami. She completed an internship and residency in internal medicine at the George Washington University.

Her leadership spans more than 35 years beginning with serving as the president of the Minority PreProfessional Association at UF. As a medical student, she was a student health policy mentee in the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy's office. Also, she served as president and regional council member of the Student National Medical Association. In her senior year she was awarded the highest honor bestowed at the University of Miami by being inducted into Iron Arrow Honor Society.

Dr. Pass' dedication to community began in 2001 when she opened her primary care practice in Lake Wales. Before going into solo practice, she suffered from congestive heart failure and recuperated at home for 18 months after giving birth to her third child.

Her dedication to providing quality care to her patients continued to flourish as she rose through the ranks of leadership at Advent Health Lake Wales. While on staff for the past 20 years, she's served on every committee and has been elected three times as chairman of medicine. Currently, she is serving as the first Black female chief of staff.

Dr. Pass' specialties include internal medicine, wound care and hyperbaric medicine.

Her passions are her three lovely children. Alexandra is a graduate student, and Nicholas and Christian are in college.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MR.
RUSS THYRET

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mr. LIEU. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Mr. Russ Thyret, who passed away at the age of 76 on February 12, 2021 at his home in Valley Village, California. Over the course of thirty years, Russ rose through the ranks at Warner Bros. Records culminating in his serving as the Burbank-based label's Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer from 1995 to 2001. His wife, Rebecca, said that Russ' message for his Warner family and for all who he had known over the years, "he wants us all to be happy and to be good to each other."

Mr. Thyret, the son of a Glendale, California policeman, began his career in the music industry managing an independent retail store

on the Sunset Strip. He joined Warner Bros. Records shortly thereafter, working at the company's Burbank home office in a national sales role during the time Warner/Elektra/Atlantic (WEA) Corporation opened branch operations throughout the country. In the mid-70s, Russ was selected to serve as Vice President and Director of National Promotion during the time Warner Bros. dominated the charts and became the dominant record company on the West Coast.

Russ was named Board Chairman at Warner Bros. after a period of uncertainty after the departure of several senior executives. He sought to strengthen the record label with his unique business strategy and his undying passion for music. During his years heading the company's promotion department, Russ led a small army of promotional personnel who worked to ensure records were played on the air on local, national, and international airwaves. Mr. Thyret and his staff delivered countless hits by legendary artists such as: Fleetwood Mac, the Doobie Brothers, Randy Newman, James Taylor, Alice Cooper, Chaka Khan, R.E.M., ZZ Top, Depeche Mode, k.d. lang, John Fogerty, Madonna, and Prince.

"Thyret was a man of great instinct and heart," as stated by Jackie Sallow with Warner Records. Russ will always be remembered for his personable spirit, tenacious mindset, and kind heart. In 2001, Mr. Thyret ended his tenure after the completion of the AOL Time Warner merger. He summed up his time with the company stating, "My strongest ambition has always been to serve the artists well, and I leave Warner Bros. hoping I have accomplished that. I was in awe of Warner Bros. Records the first day I walked in the door, and in so many ways, I leave even more in awe. It will forever be a magical memory."

Mr. Russ Thyret will also be remembered for his love of his family, horses, fishing, and his great Labrador Retriever. He is survived by his wife Rebecca Alvarez and his son Russ Thyre, Jr.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
JUDGE HUGH SCOTT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of a trailblazer in the Western New York legal community, Judge Hugh B. Scott. Judge Scott possessed a great legal mind and he will be sorely missed by all those who loved and respected him.

Judge Hugh B. Scott defied societal attitudes meant to restrict him and other African Americans to become the first Black federal judge in Western New York history. After he graduated as one of just three Black members of the Sweet Home High School class of 1967, Judge Scott attended Niagara University and the University at Buffalo law school, once again as one of the few Black graduates, to make local legal history.

Judge Scott made history as the first African American federal prosecutor and head of the state attorney general's office in Buffalo. He served as a City Court judge for a decade before becoming the first Black federal judge in Western New York history in 1994.