

after serving Maine communities as a Postmaster for three decades.

Steve has dedicated his career to public service, serving in the U.S. Air Force before working twenty-two years as a Postmaster in Round Pond, then eight years in Rockport. As a public servant, Steve continuously went above and beyond, greeting each customer with a smile and good cheer.

Steve's retirement today is all the more remarkable because he originally intended to retire in March 2020. But as the world fell into chaos due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Steve made the courageous decision to stay on the job. Even though it meant working long days, a daily two-hour round-trip commute, and risking his safety, Steve refused to abandon his community during the most uncertain days of the pandemic.

It is because of people like Steve that Maine has a reputation for being "the way life should be." Our state is a much better place because of his vital work and his ability to form deep and trusting relationships with the people of Midcoast Maine. As he moves onto his next adventure, I wish him all the best.

REINTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO AWARD THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO HUMANITARIAN AND SPORTING LEGEND MUHAMMAD ALI

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, as we mark Black History Month, I am proud to reintroduce legislation to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Muhammad Ali in recognition of his contributions to our nation. I believe it is long past time to recognize an American civil rights activist and sporting legend with Congress' highest honor. Unfortunately, Congress failed to act before The Champ's death in 2016, at the age 74, so I ask my colleagues to join me now in honoring an American hero. Over the course of his illustrious career, Muhammad Ali produced some of our nation's most lasting sports memories. From winning a Gold Medal at the 1960 Summer Olympics, to lighting the Olympic torch at the 1996 Summer Olympics, his influence as an athlete and a humanitarian spanned over fifty years.

Despite having been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in the 1980s, Ali devoted his life to charitable organizations. Ali, and his wife Lonnie, were founding directors of the Muhammad Ali Parkinson Center and Movement Disorders Clinic in Phoenix, AZ and helped raise over \$50 million for Parkinson's research. In addition to helping families cope with illness, Ali led efforts to provide meals for the hungry and helped countless organizations such as the Make-A-Wish-Foundation and the Special Olympics.

Muhammad Ali's humanitarian efforts went beyond his charitable activities in the United States. In 1990 Muhammad Ali travelled to the Middle East to seek the release of American and British hostages that were being held as human shields in the first Gulf War. After his intervention, 15 hostages were freed. Thanks to his devotion to diplomatic causes and racial harmony, Ali was the recipient of many acco-

lades, including being chosen as a "U.N. Messenger of Peace" in 1998 and receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2005 from President Bush.

Through his unyielding dedication to his sport and to struggling populations around the world, Muhammad Ali still serves an example of service and self-sacrifice for generations of Americans. The Congressional Gold Medal is a fitting commemoration of his life and work, for which he is deservedly known as "the Greatest."

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing one of our nation's most lasting and influential figures by signing on to this important legislation.

CONGRATULATING MR. ROBBIN KUDER FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE AS A MINISTER AT NORTHWOODS CHURCH

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Pastor Robbin Kuder, and his wife Gail for their lifelong commitment to service in their community. This month, Pastor Kuder will retire after nearly a half-century of faithfully ministering to the residents of Tallahassee, Florida. It gives me great pleasure to recognize his and his wife Gail's service to Floridians, including the Central Florida community.

Raised in Orlando, the son of a minister, Robbin's commitment to service began in 1971 when he joined the United States Navy, where he served as an Operation Specialist. Following his graduation from FSU School of Music Education, Robbin began serving as worship leader and minister at Northwoods Church. He has served here for 45 years, including 16 years as youth minister.

I first met Robbin as we were young men attending First Baptist Church of Pine Hills, Florida where Robbin's dad Roger, served as music minister. As a newly elected member of the Florida Legislature, while in Tallahassee, I attended then University Heights Baptist Church where Robbin served.

A man of quiet leadership, immense patience and quiet sense of humor, Robbin has devoted his life to sharing his passion for music and the love of Christ with people. When not at church, Robbin could be found cycling, sailing, hunting or fishing—usually joined by his beloved wife Gail, one of his seven children or 16 grandchildren. His adventurous spirit and patience are evident in the numerous cross-state cycling trips he organized and led to give Florida youths an outlet for both athletics and adventure, while blessing churches with musical performances and service projects throughout the trip. Robbin and Gail are excellent examples for adults, parents, and young people for how to live a life of ministry.

It is a privilege to congratulate and applaud Robbin and Gail for a lifetime service that has spanned 5 decades. May their character, life, and efforts inspire others to follow in their footsteps.

RECOGNIZING BLACK HISTORY MONTH ESSAY CONTEST WINNER TOBI OJO

HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the exemplary work of Tobi Ojo, an 11th grade student at Grassfield High School in Chesapeake, Virginia, and the high school winner of the Black History Month essay contest I hosted earlier this month. Ms. Ojo wrote a powerful essay on Stacey Abrams' groundbreaking electoral successes and the exceptional work of African-American women across our nation. I am inspired by Ms. Ojo's words, and I encourage young people across our country to reflect on what this month means to them.

Since its creation less than 50 years ago, Black History Month has been a time to honor and reflect upon the remarkable achievements of the African-American community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Tobi Ojo's exceptional work in celebration of Black History Month.

February is the month to celebrate black history, accomplishments, and excellence. When thinking of historical figures who embody these ideologies, many individuals would mention Martin Luther King Jr. or Rosa Parks. If neither of these historical figures is mentioned most people would say another popular African-American man. Black excellence in terms of African-American women is hardly recognized. One African-American lady who has been currently seen breaking societal expectations is politician and lawyer, Stacey Abrams.

Mrs. Abrams broke history by being the first black woman to be a major party nominee for governor in the United States. She was a former liberal State House leader who wanted to change the historically conservative state of Georgia. Her campaign was centered on "the Georgia of tomorrow." Although she is not currently the governor of Georgia, no woman has ever come close to holding that position. Moreover, there has not been a governor position held by a black individual since the Reconstruction Era.

Stacey Abrams is also a successful graduate from Yale Law School. Outside of politics, Mrs. Abrams runs a small business and is a successful writer. Most of her successful books, such as *Minority Leader: Lead From Outside and Our Time Is Now*, center around her struggles and achievements in her life. These books inspire others like Mrs. Abrams to break societal standards set to hinder black lives in America.

Instead of allowing her race and gender to become a hindrance, Mrs. Abrams continues to strive to make a change in the state of Georgia. Georgia has had a history of black representation in small positions but not in statewide positions. Abrams continues to work to improve black communities in Georgia. One of her top priorities is to see more black women leaders in government positions (*The New York Times* 2021).

Stacey Abrams is also a voting rights activist who fights for Americans to have their voice heard through their votes. After seeing the massive mismanagement of Georgia's 2018 election, she decided to combat this problem. This was one of the reasons why she founded the Fair Fight. The Fair Fight helps educate voters on election reforms and advocate for election reform on various government levels. This organization promotes fair

elections by encouraging fair elections in Georgia. Fair Fight focuses on empowering the voices of minorities and diminishing voter suppression (About Fair Fight/Fair Fight" 2020).

Fair Fights was one of the many organizations that Stacey Abrams founded. In 2019, Fair Count was created. Fair Count was established to increase civic engagement in states and improve Census accuracy. Another organization that was created by Stacey Abrams is Southern Economic Advancement Project. The Southern Economic Advancement Project promotes public policies that improve economic power and increase equity in the South.

Stacey Abrams seeks to create change outside of Georgia and the United States. She is a member of former Secretary of State John Kerry's World War Zero bipartisan coalition which tries to educate individuals on climate change. Stacey Abrams has met with politicians in Taiwan, South Korea, Israel to bring about change on different issues worldwide ("About Stacey Abrams/Fair Fight" 2021).

Politician and writer, Stacey Abrams, has won awards that shine her accomplishments and works. She was a recipient of John F. Kennedy New Frontier Award. Stacey Abrams continues to break history day by day by fighting for those who do not have a voice and representation in government policies and positions.

TRIBUTE TO MR. EDWARD
WILLIAM HILL

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise with respect to honor the life of Mr. Edward William Hill.

Edward was born to the union of Johnnie Edward and Mary Frances Hill on November 12, 1957 at Provident Hospital in Chicago, IL.

His friends and family knew him as "Sputnik", a nickname given to him by his father as he was born after the launch of the world's first space satellite.

Edward accepted Christ at an early age, and was baptized at Vernon Baptist Church. He later became a member of Lilydale First Baptist Church, where he was a member for over 40 years.

The Hill family built their first home in the Chatham area of Chicago, where Edward and his sisters attended John Marshall Harlan High School. During his time at Harlan, Edward was heavily involved in sports and community activities, and in his senior year he was Prom King for the Harlan class of 1976.

Edward matriculated to Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA where he earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Administration in 1980. After graduating college, he attended Roosevelt University Chicago, where he received his Master of Public Administration in 1982 with a concentration in Health Administration.

He became a professional healthcare administrator at various facilities throughout the City of Chicago, including, Executive Director of Provident Hospital, Manager of the Eye Care Physician & Surgeons of Illinois Ltd, Administrator of the Harvey Medical Family Medical Center, Executive Director of the Dorothy Rivers Family Women Shelter and the Claude W.B. Holman Komed Health Facility. He also

served as an adjunct-lecturer at Chicago State University and Malcolm X City College where he taught courses in Business Management.

Edward was a true sportsman and enjoyed playing baseball as an outfielder with the Tuley Park Little League Association. He played basketball with the Avalon YMCA, and was an avid league bowler at each of his parent businesses, Halsted Bowl and Skyway Bowl. Edward was also a great tennis player.

Known for his jokes and comical character, he was always the life of every party. He was a proud father, and one of his greatest joys was the birth of his son, Edward, Jr.

Edward had a big heart and was a joy to his family and friends. He made his transition on Thursday, February 11, 2021, at 11:31 p.m. Edward was preceded in death by his father, Johnnie Edward, and his older brother, Johnnie, Jr. He is survived by his beloved mother, Mary Frances; son, Edward, Jr.; mother of his son, Jessie Maroy; sisters, Brunetta Ann Hill Corley (Rico) and Marilyn Frances Booker; aunts, Joan Hill of Chicago, IL and Viola Daniel of Valley Grande, AL, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

To the Hill family, my deepest condolences, and thoughts during this transition period. I am always reminded of these words in time of grief, "May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face. And rains fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again, May God hold you in the hollow of His hand."

HONORING TWO RIVERS PUBLIC
CHARTER SCHOOL 7TH GRADERS,
TEACHERS AND THEIR OUT-
STANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, February is Black History month. This month, and every month, let us celebrate the Black Americans who built this nation, amplify the voices of those who continue to fight for a more just society, and recommit to taking real action. We must remember that Black History is American History as we reflect on the people who have strengthened our nation.

This past year, the fight for racial justice was especially important in wake of unspeakable tragedies like the murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. People of all ages protested from coast to coast, calling for justice, saying enough is enough, and demanding change. I was particularly inspired by a group of young students led by Social Studies Teacher Nicole Clark, English Language Arts Teacher Monica Powell, and Inclusion Specialist Courtney Legg at Two Rivers Public Charter School in Washington, D.C. During their recent school showcase they presented their "resistance poems" which I have shared with my colleagues in an e-booklet and posted to my website at: <https://delauro.house.gov/sites/delauro.house.gov/files/documents/TwoRiversPoems.pdf>.

As Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." During these unprecedented times, where we are also struggling to

combat a pandemic that is disproportionately affecting communities of color, we must have the courage to make meaningful change. It is clear that the young authors of these poems certainly have that courage. I was particularly inspired by their words, and I am confident that my colleagues in the Congress were as well.

It is through their dedication and commitment of young people—and that of so many others before them—we are able to continue this fight for equality, justice and opportunity today and for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING BLACK HISTORY
MONTH ESSAY CONTEST WINNER
SHEA DOWLING

HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2021

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the exemplary work of Shea Dowling, an 8th grade student at Albert Hill Middle School in Richmond, Virginia, and the middle school winner of the Black History Month essay contest I hosted earlier this month. Mr. Dowling wrote a superb essay on the presidency of Barack Obama and the positive impact it has left on African-Americans. I am inspired by the words of Mr. Dowling, and I encourage young people across our country to reflect on what this month means to them.

Since its creation less than 50 years ago, Black History Month has been a time to honor and reflect upon the remarkable achievements of the African-American community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Shea Dowling's exceptional work in celebration of Black History Month.

As the first Black President, Barack Obama is an important figure in Black history. His 2008 election set the record for the most votes ever cast, recently surpassed by Biden in this election. He was a good President in the eyes of many during his two terms. He fought the 2008 recession and helped pass the Affordable Care Act. He also repealed Don't Ask Don't Tell which allowed the LGBTQ+ community serve openly in the military. He set in motion the opportunity for gays to marry. Obama also signed the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which helped lessen the wage gap between genders.

Throughout Obama's campaign and presidency, he faced discrimination and people calling him and his family names. People did different things, such as they called his wife, Michelle Obama, a man. The birther movement started, where people questioned the legitimacy of Obama's birth certificate.

A number of Black leaders inspired our country and paved the way for Obama's success; including MLK, Jesse Jackson, John Lewis, and Shirley Chisholm. However, seeing a Black President for eight years, the majority of my childhood has shown my classmates that they, too, can be anything they want—even President. Obama's presidency has ushered in the success of other Black leaders nationally including Kamala Harris, Kwanza Hall, and Jamaal Bowman.

Electing a Black leader to the highest position of power in our country is a step in the right direction, but we have a long ways to go to become a truly equal nation with equal rights and equal opportunities for all. We have to stand together, united against racism and discrimination. We have to continue