

HONORING ROSE CORDASCO'S
100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 8, 2021

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rose Cordasco's 100th birthday. Rose is a loving, kind mother, sister, grandmother and great-grandmother. She is beloved by her family and from how her family has described her, it is clear that she has made the most of each of her one-hundred years.

I wish her the best on achieving this milestone.

HONORING JOSEPHINE MORSE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 8, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the extraordinary service of Josephine Morse, who served in the House Office of General Counsel as a Deputy General Counsel. During her tenure, Ms. Morse, a District of Columbia resident, played an integral role in safeguarding the legal interests of the House and its Members, Officers, and employees in federal court litigation involving issues of the highest institutional importance.

Ms. Morse provided invaluable legal counsel and representation to numerous House committees, greatly assisting them both in fulfilling their constitutionally authorized oversight functions and defending those prerogatives in litigation. Ms. Morse provided vital legal counsel to the House in both impeachments of President Trump and in defense of longstanding institutional prerogatives. Those prerogatives included the House's constitutional authority under the Appropriations Clause and the power of House committees to issue subpoenas for both documents and testimony from the White House and Executive Branch agencies.

Of particular importance to the District of Columbia, Ms. Morse's legal work in litigation involving the District's quest to obtain the fundamental right of voting representation in Congress was exceptional, and her oral advocacy on behalf of the House's position in support of voting representation for the District before a three-judge district court was highly effective.

Ms. Morse's work on behalf of the House was of the highest caliber, and I have no doubt that the Office of Management and Budget, which she recently joined, will benefit from her outstanding legal counsel. On behalf of the entire House community, I thank Ms. Morse for her dedicated service to the House, and I wish her the very best in all of her future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHARLES
WALKER PREWITT SR.

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 8, 2021

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to observe and mourn the passing of a talented scientist, college professor, and most notably a "citizen of the world" who passionately advocated for world peace and justice, Mr. Charlie Prewitt, of Mansfield Hollow, Connecticut. My friend Charlie passed at the extraordinary age of 102 on January 7, 2021, sadly due to complications related to the coronavirus.

My statement today could not begin to encapsulate all that Charlie had accomplished during his industrious life. Born in Indiana in 1918, he showed such academic aptitude from an early age when he entered the second grade by age five. A prolific musician, playing both piano and violin, he received a scholarship to play in the Transylvania University orchestra where he would then go onto earn a bachelor's degree in chemistry. Charlie also met the love of his life, Virginia Stewart, at his alma mater—a love that would last 65 years.

Charlie went on to continue his education at Louisiana State University when his graduate work was interrupted by World War II. Due to his background in chemistry, he was conscripted to work at Dupont Chemical on extending the burn rate of gunpowder. That work led him to the Manhattan Project where he collected samples from reactors and ran titrations on plutonium. His involvement in the creation of nuclear weapons and intimate knowledge of their terrifying power was a driving motivation for his determined commitment to nuclear nonproliferation.

When the war ended, Charlie completed his graduate work, obtaining a Master's in Education at University of Kentucky, followed by a Doctorate in Science Education at Columbia University. In 1952, he and Virginia finally landed in Willimantic, Connecticut when he moved to take a professorship at the then named Willimantic State Teachers College, now Eastern Connecticut State University. His commitment to his students and his passion for educating educators was unmatched. His leadership led to the establishment of a minor degree in Peace and Human Rights at the University and the development of a scholarship program for students pursuing this degree.

While he remained in Connecticut for the rest of his life and career, Charlie never lost sight of foreign affairs. He accepted a Fulbright Scholarship to Myanmar, a U.S. AID position in Afghanistan and finally joined a Ford Foundation project in Pakistan. His commitment to war resistance, social justice, peace, and advancement of human rights never wavered.

Charlie and I crossed paths many times during my time in public service, and while we would engage in healthy debate, our conversations always left me with a deeper understanding of the issues and an even deeper respect for his commitment to them. Charlie's loss leaves a deep void in the activist community in Eastern Connecticut and around the world. He now goes on to join his loving wife Virginia, who regretfully predeceased him in

2007. Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues and this Chamber to join me in expressing our deepest respect for Charlie's work and life and send our deepest condolences to the Prewitt Family. Charlie is survived by his children Charlies Walker Jr., (John) David Prewitt and Mary Stewart Prewitt and their families who carry the indelible memory of Charlie and Virginia in their hearts so that their example of compassion and kindness will carry on.

TRIBUTE TO GAYLE GRIFFIN,
AFGE'S DISTRICT 7 WOMAN OF
THE YEAR

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 8, 2021

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the career and ongoing legacy of Gayle Griffin, a retired nurse formerly employed at Milwaukee's Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center and President of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) Local 3. She is an exemplary voice in our community and has consistently used her position to defend others. I want to congratulate her on her recent selection as AFGE's District 7 Woman of the Year.

Gayle is the first African American to ever be elected president of her Local AFGE branch. During her time in AFGE leadership, she has continually used her position to advocate for her members against anti-union executive orders, racism, and other inequities as a fierce champion for social justice.

Throughout her eleven-year career as a nurse serving our veterans at the Milwaukee VA, Gayle was one of many Black nurses who endured racism in her workplace. However, rather than backing down, she resolutely sought to protect and defend the rights of workers at the Local AFGE branch. She has spoken out about the tremendous struggles that VA nursing staff are facing amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and has repeatedly called for more honest communication from the Department of Veterans Affairs with its employees.

On February 21, 2021, Gayle was selected as AFGE's District 7 Woman of the Year. This important award is granted to those who exhibit selfless dedication to union solidarity, public service, and workplace health and safety. This is an honor that Gayle has truly earned. She has fought tirelessly to protect the health of veterans, for workers' rights, and for commonsense workplace safety and equity—especially during the devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Her altruistic spirit and inspiring dedication to her colleagues and community are why Gayle is so deserving of the title of AFGE's District 7 Woman of the Year. Wisconsin's 4th Congressional District, and the veterans who depend on the VA for their health care, have been made better as a result of Gayle's phenomenal work. I sincerely respect her determination and applaud her accomplishments. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor my constituent and her recent accomplishment and celebrate the great work that she and others in AFGE District 7 are doing in service to our veterans, our country and the state of Wisconsin.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARY E. MILLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 8, 2021

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, by accident, I failed to vote on H.R. 1, the "For the People Act" while on the floor for the vote series. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 62.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HECTOR
F. ELIZALDE**HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 8, 2021

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true champion for veterans, a dear friend, a wonderful employee and colleague, a proud resident of the City of Monrovia, and a dedicated, caring gentleman in Hector Elizalde, our beloved Deputy District Director of the 32nd District, who died on February 7, 2021, from complications due to COVID-19. For the past 11 years, Hector was truly devoted to his job of defending, advocating for, and serving veterans and their families, and tackling any problem that came his way. He was the embodiment of what it means to serve one's nation and one's community, holding true to his pledge to never leave a soldier behind, whether on the battlefield or city street.

Hector F. Elizalde was born in Chicago, IL on February 15, 1946. He served in the United States Army from July 31, 1964, until he was honorably discharged on July 28, 1967. Hector later graduated from California State University, Los Angeles with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. He worked for some of America's most recognized companies, such as Anheuser-Busch, Stroh Brewery Company, PepsiCo, and Don King Productions. His career advancements led the Elizalde family to live throughout the country, from 1984, in the states of Michigan, Connecticut, New York, and Florida until his return to California in 1997. Hector could have continued excelling in lucrative professions, but he had a great sense of duty to any and all fellow veterans, and also to his neighbors.

From the very first day he entered our office in the spring of 2010 until his very last on this earth, Hector honorably served the veteran community. Whether it was helping a homeless veteran find shelter or escorting the casket of a fallen servicemember at the airport, Hector's compassion for helping veterans touched countless lives. Giving out his personal cell phone number was nothing out of the ordinary, and whenever he did so, he made sure everyone knew that it was a 24/7 number.

Hector understood the frustration many veterans felt because of delays in VA benefits and routine health checkups that would take an entire day. He took this personally and vowed we must do better. Under his tenure as Military/Veterans Liaison, we began to hold an annual Veterans Forum, to bring the VA to the San Gabriel Valley, which grew in size and reach each successive year. As a result of

Hector's persistence and laser-focus on the mission, the San Gabriel Valley VA Health Clinic was opened in May 2019 in Arcadia, CA.

A sharp dresser, but very humble individual, he never sought nor wanted praise. He was there for everybody. He served not only the people of the 32nd District, but all of Los Angeles County, as Chair of the Los Angeles County Veterans Advisory Commission, to which he was appointed by LA County Supervisor Kathryn Barger.

Since his passing, the outpouring from people whose lives he touched has been immeasurable, because he was a true believer in public service. From the many hours he spent resolving constituents' casework, to the city council meetings, weekend veteran and community events he would attend; for Hector, the public's needs always came first.

Hector is survived by his ex-wife, Elaine, the mother of his two adult children; sons Phillip and Edward; Edward's wife Ingrid; and their two children, Isabella and Aiden. Hector truly loved and was proud of his family, especially his grandchildren.

Hector made us all feel like family. He was kind, respectful, thoughtful, and helpful to everyone he met. His charisma and smile will never be forgotten. His laughter and the way he cared for others will forever live on in our memories. It was our honor to be able to work alongside him.

The world has lost a hero. Hector was the best of the best, and we are all better people because of him. There is no one else like him and probably never will be, but it is safe to say, our world needs more Hector's.

IN MEMORY OF LAURA COLE

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 8, 2021

Ms. PINGREE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember an extraordinary Maine woman, Laura Cole.

Laura lived her life purposefully, offering help and engendering hope and happiness as a partner, parent, volunteer, friend, business owner, and citizen of Maine. She understood the power of one person's voice and helping hand, and her spirit was contagious.

Laura exemplified the words of Edward Hale, "I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something that I can do."

It seems there was very little that Laura did not do, and she received several awards for her efforts, including the Presidential Volunteer Service Award in 2012, the Responder of the Year Award in 2013, and the New Maine Business of the Year for York County, Maine, in 2019. She spearheaded her community's Operation Santa program for kids and the annual Lebanon Community Festival. In the midst of this winter that has been darkened by a pandemic, she created two acres of holiday lights for the community to enjoy from their cars and drop off canned food to donate to local food pantries. And she used proceeds from her event photography business to support End 68 Hours of Hunger and buy lunches to support local restaurants and donate to first responders.

Not only did Laura devote her life to acts of kindness and caring, her final gifts were organ and tissue donations, providing lifesaving help and health to over a dozen people. In her honor, the family has established Laura's Legacy of Love as a living memorial project with a simple mission—to promote kindness by paying it forward in her name.

I am proud to have represented Laura Cole in the U.S. Congress—an indefatigable young woman who loved Maine and set an extraordinary example for us all.

100TH BIRTHDAY OF EMMIE
'BOOTS' BURK**HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 8, 2021

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today in celebration of Mrs. Emmie 'Boots' Burk to commemorate the very significant milestone of her 100th birthday.

Emmie Fulton Burk was born on Texas Independence Day, March 2, 1921 in Koblenz, Germany to an American military family stationed overseas. Growing up in the State of Georgia she learned the importance of family and tradition. She was a member of the first Girl Scout troop on Ft. Screven, Georgia (Tybee Island). When her father, MSgt. Benjamin Fulton was later stationed at Ft. Sam Houston, San Antonio, Emmie moved to finish high school in 1939. She has been a proud Texan ever since.

In 1942, she married the love of her life, James William Burk. She helped raise their son and daughter and became very active in their children's school and extracurricular activities, as well as church and other community service. She was independent and career driven. After the passing of her husband in 1979, she worked to solely support herself eventually going on to work in the early stages of market research. After several years in the industry, she began her own company, Burk Market Research, growing it into a successful venture through the 1970s to 1990s.

A faithful public servant, she worked with the United States Census Bureau assisting with many monthly studies, to include current population studies. This led her to travel across our great country to many different areas, where she helped lead the count. In 1991, she received the Bronze Medal for meritorious service. Mrs. Burk retired in 2011 at the age of 90 with 43 years of service, making her one of the longest serving members in the Bureau's history.

Today you will find Mrs. Burk attending one of her great grandchildren's events. A strong family-driven mind, Mrs. Burk dedicates her time to family and making new joyful memories. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Mrs. Burk and a tremendous life well-lived. I thank Mrs. Burk for her many years of public service. It is my hope that she will share her 100th with all her loved ones.