

CELEBRATING THE WORTHY BOYS
AND GIRLS CAMP

HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 7, 2021

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the honorable work of the Worthy Boys and Girls Camp in Rock Hill, South Carolina.

Since 1950, the Worthy Boys and Girls Camp has provided a week-long opportunity for York County youth to experience the outdoors each summer. It is the only free overnight camp in the area, planned and organized entirely by the Rock Hill Police Department. Through a variety of sports activities and trainings, children build upon their strengths to improve individual self-esteem, develop new interpersonal skills, and gain a greater appreciation for their surrounding community.

Aside from providing a safe and supportive environment, camp staff instill in young boys and girls a sense of consistent teamwork, commitment, and sharing. Nearly 200 children are exposed to new ideas, places, and friendships every summer that will teach them lessons they'll carry forward through life.

The Worthy Boys and Girls Camp is a shining example of the sense of community felt across Rock Hill.

Locals enjoy supporting the camp through their donations and various volunteer efforts. Week-long sessions are staffed by police officers, department staff members, and volunteers of all ages who dedicate long hours and resources to ensuring the camp's continued success. Many police officers who attended the program as students, like Rock Hill Police Chief Chris Watts, now serve as camp counselors.

The lifechanging work of the Worthy Boys and Girls Camp has created positive relationships between local law enforcement officers and youth for decades. The camp plays an integral role in developing Rock Hill's youngest talent into promising leaders. I congratulate the Worthy Boys and Girls Camp on a successful 72 years, and I look forward to watching them serve our community's children in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL
NURSES WEEK

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 7, 2021

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Nurses Week, a celebration to acknowledge our nurses for their unwavering courage, hard work and dedication. Our frontline heroes have been at the forefront of this global pandemic, and their sacrifice is well-deserving of recognition.

For many healthcare workers, this past year has been the toughest challenge of their career. Despite these unprecedented obstacles, they have continued to show bravery and selflessness by risking their own health to provide patients with the utmost care.

Along with the fear of the unknown and the rigorous work schedule, our frontline line work-

ers have made huge personal sacrifices as well. Despite living with the fear of contracting COVID-19 themselves or potentially bringing the virus home to their loved ones; these healthcare workers still manage to do their jobs and protect our communities.

In celebration of National Nurses Week, I encourage everyone to take the time to thank our nurses for choosing selflessness over self-preservation and rising to the challenge of COVID-19. Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask that you rise with me to celebrate National Nurses Week.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAVID
ELLIOT

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 7, 2021

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor David Elliot from Taos, New Mexico. On Wednesday, April 28, 2021, President Biden delivered his first address to a Joint Session of Congress, 100 days into his first term.

When President Biden took the oath of office, he pledged that help was on the way. Thanks to our work together to enact the American Rescue Plan, help is finally here.

The hardworking people in New Mexico and all across the country have also shown us what true community looks like. David is one of those community heroes.

In a typical year, I would invite him to join me in the House Chamber for the Joint Address. COVID-19 safety protocols mean this year's in-person attendance will be limited and we will be watching from our beautiful New Mexico. But I did not want to miss this important opportunity to honor David.

David's commitment to serving others is inspiring. His work to bring people and organizations together to establish the Enchanted Circle of Community Organizations Active in Disaster is the embodiment of community. The Enchanted Circle COAD helped others in Taos, Colfax, Santa Fe counties and beyond. They have donated millions of dollars directly and in kind to their neighbors. During the initial phases of the COVID-19 response, David also served as the Deputy Director of the NM State Emergency Operations Center. His passion for emergency management has also led him to serve his community as a volunteer firefighter, volunteer Fire Chief, and as Emergency Management Coordinator for Taos and Santa Fe County.

David pointed out to me that he was honored to view this address as my guest on behalf of the countless New Mexicans, businesses, non-profits, and organizations who donated their time, effort, and money to help New Mexico recover during this extremely difficult time.

I'm proud to invite him as my virtual guest to the Presidential Address. He truly represents the best that New Mexico has to offer, and I thank him for his selflessness and life-saving work.

IN RECOGNITION OF VICKIE
THOMAS

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 7, 2021

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions of award-winning journalist Vickie Thomas, a proud daughter of Michigan's 13th Congressional District.

Ms. Thomas was raised in Highland, Park Michigan and first became interested in journalism as a student at Detroit Henry Ford High School. She went on to graduate with honors, earning her degree in broadcast journalism from Wayne State University. Ms. Thomas is best known in southeast Michigan as the voice of WWJ NewsRadio, where she reported on local news and events.

Ms. Thomas' work has garnered local and national accolades. She has earned awards from the Detroit Press Foundation, the Michigan Association of Broadcasters, the Associated Press, and the National Association of Black Journalists. Ms. Thomas is a recipient of the national "Gabriel Award" from UNDA-USA for the WWJ Black History Month Series "The African-American Church: The Heart and Soul of Metro Detroit's Black Community." She is a member of the National Association of Black Journalists.

Please join me in paying tribute to Vickie Thomas's numerous achievements and hard work in bringing news and stories of local interest to the people of southeast Michigan.

RECOGNIZING CINCO DE MAYO

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 7, 2021

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the holiday of Cinco de Mayo commemorating the victory of the Mexican Army 1862 over France at the Battle of Puebla during the Franco-Mexican War.

The fifth day of May, or Cinco de Mayo, is a special day because it represents the importance of freedom, liberty and determination for the people of Mexico and for Mexican-Americans.

It was on that day, May 5, 1862, that untrained, outnumbered, and outgunned Mexican forces—determined to protect their land—successfully defended the town of Puebla against the French.

The quest for an independent Mexico started on September 16, 1810, when the people of Mexico, following the will to become a free nation, refused to submit to Spanish rule.

The struggle went on for 10 years. Finally, in 1821, the first independent Mexican government was established.

But being an independent nation was not easy.

Over the years, Mexico received economic support from several nations, France and England among them.

Later on, even Spain supported the new country.

Thus, Mexico became heavily indebted to foreign powers.

Due to ongoing political unrest caused by many groups struggling for power, Mexico was not able to pay back the loans.

On July 17, 1861, President Benito Juarez issued a moratorium in which all-foreign debt payments would be suspended for a period of two years, with the promise that after this period, payments would resume.

In 1862, France, Spain, and England dispatched their fleets to Mexican shores pursuing not only money but also land rights as payment for their loans.

A government representative greeted them and explained that Mexico acknowledged its debts but had no funds to pay them.

They were offered payment warrants in exchange.

The Spaniards and the British decided to accept the warrants and withdrew from the scene.

But the French government's representative did not accept the offer and ordered his troops to invade the country and head toward Mexico City, the nation's capital.

They had to cross through the state of Puebla to get to the capital.

Mexican President Benito Juarez reacted immediately and prepared the defense.

He commanded Ignacio Zaragoza, a young and brave General, to fortify the City of Puebla and repel the French invaders.

The battle was by no means even.

France, under Louis Napoleon's rule, had the most world's powerful army, and sent more than six thousand men to invade Mexico.

But the courage and the love of freedom impelled the Mexican people to fight back.

General Ignacio Zaragoza led 5,000 ill-equipped Mestizo and Zapotec Indians called Zacapoaxtlas.

On the 5th of May 1862, the forts of Loreto and Guadalupe, in the city of Puebla, became the scene of the historic defeat of the great army of France.

Against overwhelming odds, they managed to drive the enemy back, achieving a total victory over the best trained and equipped soldiers in the world and ending the era of European domination of the Americas.

For Mexico, this day has come to represent a symbol of Mexican unity.

In the United States, Cinco de Mayo is also a celebration of the rich cultural heritage Mexican Americans have brought to the United States.

Hispanics are the fastest-growing minority group in the United States.

According to the most recent data available, the estimated Hispanic population in the U.S. is 57.5 million—constituting 17.8 percent of our nation's population.

Hispanics now own a record number of small businesses—1.6 million, with annual revenues of more than \$221 billion.

Small businesses create two-thirds of American jobs, and the fastest-growing small business sector is Latino-owned firms.

Today, there are 52 Hispanic Members in the United States Congress, including 6 Senators and 46 House Members, many of whom are Mexican-American, representing constituencies in all regions of the country, from California to New York, from Arizona to Illinois, from Colorado to Florida.

These gains and numbers tell us that Hispanics are a driving force in our country—economically, socially and politically.

Hispanics share the common goals with all other Americans of freedom, opportunity, and a chance to build a better life.

In pursuing these aspirations, Hispanics have made important contributions to life in the United States in the fields of culture, sports, entertainment, business enterprise, science, politics and others.

Today, millions of Americans will join our neighbors to the south in celebrating Cinco de Mayo.

On this day, we are reminded that all people—regardless of their race, color, or gender—have enriched cultures and are worthy of respect and self-determination.

I am happy to be here today to celebrate this momentous day and to recognize the values, traditions, and positive contributions of the Mexican culture.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF MARK ANTHONY MAZZONE

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 7, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Mark Anthony Mazzone, who passed away on Tuesday, April 20 at North Mississippi Medical Center Hospice. I join his family, friends, and loved ones in mourning his loss.

Mark Anthony, also known as Curly, proudly owned WFC Automotive. He was an avid NASCAR fan. He loved the outdoors, spending his free time fishing, boating, and camping. He was a devout Catholic and was dedicated to his faith.

Left to cherish his memory are wife, Pam Castle Mazzone; stepdaughter, Whitney; daughter, Margeoux; and stepson John.

I am thankful for the life and service of Curly Mazzone and join his loved ones in celebrating his life.

HONORING MRS. EULA V. POLK

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 7, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable

individual, Mrs. Eula V. Polk, on her 109th Birthday.

Eula was one of ten children, born to Richard and Frankie Owens-Brown in Terry, MS, on May 24, 1912.

She grew up working on her family farm where they grew their own food. They had cattle, chicken, turkeys, geese, hogs and various vegetables. They would use spring water for drinking and cooking and rainwater for bathing and washing clothes. Her family washed clothes on a wooden washboard and boiled the white clothes on a potbelly stove until they were ready to hang outside on their picket fence to dry.

On Christmas, as a little girl, she would receive grass dolls, apples, oranges, sticks of candy, and raisins. She was always thankful and happy for her gifts.

Whether it was raining, hot, or cold, she walked to church and school. On Saturdays, she would go to the local store to buy a stick of candy for 1 cent and ice cream for 5 cents. If she was walking on the sidewalk, in town, and met a white person, she would have to get off to let them pass by before continuing on her way. Around five o'clock every evening, a bell would ring notifying black people they'd have to leave town. Upon hearing the bell, she would head home.

Life was good to Eula until she grew older and learned that there was a grave distinction between the races.

She attended Terry Grove Church School, Pilgrim Rest Church School, and Lanier High School where she completed her education.

In 1921, She united with Little Bethel CME Church in Terry, MS where she remains a member. The older she got she began to understand the meaning of service within the church. Eula proudly served as a Sunday school teacher, secretary, treasurer, usher, and choir member for twenty-five years. She also served as a stewardess and a missionary president.

Eula served her community district as a treasurer, zone leader, stewardess, and worship leader. She has served countless times as a conference delegate for her church.

In 1940, she was united in holy matrimony to Eddie Lee Polk. Together they raised two children, Willie James and Moses Lee.

Since 1949, she has been a member of the Heroines of Jericho, Grand Lodge 353. In May 2012, she received an honorary doctorate from Mt. Eva Foundation Theological Seminary in Terry, MS.

On her 100th birthday, she received birthday greetings from President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama.

Eula is blessed that God has allowed her to see fourteen grandchildren, thirty-five great grandchildren and eleven great-great grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Eula V. Polk on her 109th Birthday.