

CONGRATULATIONS TO MEYER
SHANK RACING

HON. TROY BALDERSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Mr. BALDERSON. Madam Speaker, congratulations to Meyer Shank Racing on winning this year's Indianapolis 500! Based in Licking County, Meyer Shank Racing launched in 1994 and is currently expanding operations in Pataskala. It's taken a lot of hard work and determination to get to this point, and this team deserves every bit of success. Helio Castroneves excelled behind the wheel during a riveting race this year. Mike Shank is remarkable and has led this team to many accomplishments. It's such a joy to watch this team thrive, and I wish them all the best in their future competitions.

GREENWOOD DESIGNATION

HON. KEVIN HERN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize that Tulsa's Greenwood Business District has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Nearly erased by the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, the Greenwood Business District helped provide a foundation for African American resilience and success. Today, the business district has more than 30 African American owned businesses in the last brick buildings on Greenwood Avenue in Tulsa.

Placement on the National Register for Historic Places opens possibilities for business and property owners to seek historic preservation and property improvement.

The preservation of history is critical, and I'm glad to see this portion of Tulsa receive the historical recognition it deserves.

HONORING CAPTAIN ANDREW G.
WILLIAMS

HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD the following speech that was written by local Butler, Pennsylvania historian and my constituent, Bill May. It was delivered at a headstone dedication ceremony for Civil War veteran Andrew Gomer Williams. Mr. Williams was a longtime resident of Butler where he practiced law. Born in Richmond, Virginia, Williams fought for the Union in the Civil War as a member of the 63rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. He also attended Duff's Business College and was a tradesman, nail-maker, bookkeeper, and notary public. Williams served the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a member of the state House of Representatives and state Senate as well as the Soldiers' Orphans School Commission. After a long life of service to his community and our Nation, Mr. Williams

died on April 6, 1923 in Butler and was interred in the North Side Cemetery.

Mr. Williams is an American hero, which is why Chad Slater began placing the "Grand Army of the Republic" star and flag at his grave. The Grand Army of the Republic was a fraternal organization composed of veterans of the American Civil War. However, since Williams was not identified on his headstone as a veteran, the star and flag were routinely removed. As a result, Mr. Slater, Jason Tindall, and VFW 249 began a quest to install a proper headstone that would appropriately recognize Mr. Williams' service to the people of Butler, Western Pennsylvania, and our country. I thank each of them for working to preserve this vital piece of American history for future generations.

(By Bill May)

"Monuments are as old as our race and all along the history of the dim and dusty age down to the bright and joyous present we have been perpetuating the memory of heroic men". These eloquent words, so very appropriate this morning, are not mine, but were the actual words of Andrew Gomer Williams whose monument we gather here this morning to dedicate. He delivered them in a speech on September 11, 1889 on the Gettysburg Battlefield during ceremonies dedicating the monument to his regiment, the 63rd PA Volunteers, who fought during the famous battle on July 1 through the 3rd of 1863. Much like they gathered on that field 132 years ago, we gather here today on this field to perpetuate the memory of a heroic man.

Ironically, Williams, who had fought for the Union, was born in Richmond VA, the Capital of the Confederacy on September 8, 1840 to a Welsh immigrant father and an Eastern Maryland mother. His family moved from Richmond to Pittsburgh in 1847 and from Pittsburgh to Etna one year later. The recipient of very little education, Andrew Williams went to work as a nail cutter in the local factory at the young age of 10.

Maybe it was the sense of patriotism that swelled in Andrew Williams heart or maybe it was wanting to escape the dullness of factory work for the great unknown adventure of war, but regardless of the reason, we do know that at age 21 in 1861, Williams was helping to raise three companies of men to become part of the newly created 63rd PA Volunteers and leave the smoky city for the battlefields of his native South. He was elected Captain of Company E, but declined the honor and the rank to initially serve as their 3rd Sargent when their 3 years of service began on September 9 of 1861.

He was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant on the field during the Second Battle of Bull in 1862 and then in the Spring of 1863 he was promoted to the rank of Captain of Company E of the 63rd PA Volunteers. He fought in over a dozen battles and was wounded four times including at the Charles City Crossroads on June 30, 1862 and again at The Battle of Fredericksburg on December 13, 1862. 1863 would find Williams leading his men at the Battles of Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg. During the Battle of the Wilderness on May 5, 1864 Williams was thought to have been mortally wounded after being struck in the left temple by a Confederate minie' ball and left for dead. Miraculously he was found barely alive four days later on the Wilderness Battlefield. He was mustered out with the rest of his regiment on August 6, 1864. Williams would carry the external scars from the near fatal wound for the rest of his life.

After his return home to Etna, he was unable to work for the next 3 years due to his wounds. He entered Duff's Business College

in Pittsburgh to become a bookkeeper and also read law at home. In 1868, following his father's death in a boiler explosion at the Fort Pitt Foundry, he was forced to return to cutting nails in the Etna Rolling Mill to help support his family while continuing his law studies at night. Besides his father's tragic death, Williams throughout his life experienced the deaths of 13 members of his family by explosions, railroad accidents, burnings and drowning.

In spite of all the personal and family trauma, Andrew G. Williams marched on and came to Butler in 1875 and upon being admitted to the Butler Bar the following year he immediately formed a partnership with Alexander Mitchell. This partnership would last until Mitchell's death 40 years later. During these four decades together the men claimed to never have had an argument or ever having signed a lease for their office on the Diamond with their word as their bond. The only day in the entire history of their practice they did not open was when both men's Civil War Regiments were holding reunions on the same date in Pittsburgh. The two lawyers closed up shop each afternoon at precisely 4:45 p.m. It was said that people along their walking route home could see their watches by their passing. The house Andrew Williams came home to each night was the home he built in 1887 for his second wife and their 3 sons and 1 daughter and for his 3 children from his deceased first wife.

Williams' military service in the Civil War continued to play an important role in his life with his membership in the local chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic or GAR, a Civil War veterans' group and contributing his time to help those survivors scarred by the effects of the war. He helped Civil War soldier spouses such as a Mrs. Ketttenburgh of Edgewood whose husband had served with Williams and who came to Butler in 1908 accompanied by her two sisters to apply for a Civil War Widow's Pension. Ketttenburgh presented Williams with the photo displayed in front of me taken just a few days before William's near fatal wounding at the Wilderness. He also volunteered serving on the Board of Directors of the Civil War Orphans Home that was located on Butler's Institute Hill from 1867 until moving to Mercer County in 1905.

Outside of his legal practice and his Civil War related activities, Williams served one term in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and four years in the Pennsylvania State Senate. He also served for 20 years as the Choir Director of Butler's First Methodist Church and rose to the rank of Grand Commander Knights of Templar of the State of Pennsylvania in the Masons.

After a full life, devoted to his nation, his church, his community and most importantly his family, Andrew Gomer Williams died in his North McKean Street home on April 6, 1923 from pneumonia at the age of 83 @ 10:40 p.m. Fittingly for a man who had been a soldier in the Civil War, his funeral and burial were held on April 9th the same day only 58 years earlier that Robert E. Lee had surrendered his Confederate Army to Union General Ulysses S. Grant at a place called Appomattox Courthouse Virginia.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE
AND MEMORY OF MS. RAFAELA
"LALI" GARCIA

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to commemorate the

life of Ms. Rafaela Garcia and to pay tribute to her monumental legacy in Kansas City, Missouri. Ms. Garcia, known as “Lali” to her family, friends, and neighbors, lived a life of service, selflessness, and passionate advocacy. She was ambitious and tenacious, with the goal of improving life for the Latino community guiding her work every step of the way. As I stand here today, I can confidently say that we all owe Lali an enormous debt of gratitude for the progress she fostered towards racial equality, advancing the cause of a historically marginalized population by championing equal opportunity and political representation. Lali’s dedication to serving the Latino community as an activist, community member, and office holder defined her 93 years spent on this earth and improved the lives of thousands. Lali uplifted the voices of those in need and left a profound impact on every person who crossed her path.

Born in 1927, Lali observed and experienced discrimination against the Latino community along with the severe lack of political representation for non-white citizens. During her youth, Lali used the discrimination she faced in everyday life as a source of motivation to fight for change. Years later, Lali shared stories from this time in her life to remind us of our history and the progress we have made. Lali remembered movie theaters with segregated seating, jails without due process for people of color, restaurants that barred admission for Latinos, and inferior educational opportunities for Latino students. Lali’s passion for social advocacy started young, at the age of 13, when she first visited the Guadalupe Center in Kansas City, Missouri. The Center, at that time, was dedicated to administering a school and clinic for underprivileged immigrants who settled in the mid-western city. Even at this young age, Lali saw the potential for the Center to become a vibrant community gathering place, a structure to fight against the social inequities she witnessed, and a pillar of the Latino community. As Lali served for forty-six years on the Center’s Board of Directors, this vision came to fruition, with three terms as the Board President. She oversaw a massive expansion of the services provided by the Center, advancing opportunities, services, and protection for the Latino community. Today, largely in part to Lali’s commitment, the Center has grown to provide healthcare, education, financial assistance, childcare, workforce development, and more. We are forever indebted to Lali’s work to transform this organization as it continues to provide opportunities, support, and stability for newly arrived immigrants and Kansas City natives alike. Her legacy challenges each of us to continue making Kansas City a welcoming place for immigrants to find a home, celebrate their culture, and become part of the community. As we follow in her footsteps, we must strive to ensure that all those who make the journey to the United States feel valued, cherished, and loved—the same way Lali made all of us feel.

Beyond her immeasurable work at the Center, Lali was a fierce advocate for political equality and representation for the Latino community. Lali understood the importance of responsive leaders who use their positions in the halls of government to protect and uplift all members of the community, regardless of race or ethnicity. She also recognized the need for leaders who would advocate for the fair and

equal treatment of the Latino community. In 1989, Lali founded La Raza Political Club. Under her leadership, La Raza elected many of the first Latinos to public office in Kansas City, finally creating a seat at the table for her community. During her time with La Raza, Lali registered new voters, fought back against discrimination at the polls, and proved the importance of perceptive leadership. By registering hundreds of Latino voters, Lali amplified their voices and worked to create a more just, equitable, and accepting nation. We are called to pick up this duty where Lali left off and to emphasize the importance of political engagement in all communities.

A short recognition cannot adequately describe the breadth of Lali’s tireless work building community resources, political representation, and cultural acceptance. At the end of her life, amidst a global pandemic, her work never ceased. Lali served as a member of the Guadalupe Centers Board of Directors; the Jackson County Ethics, Human Relations, & Citizen Complaints Commission; and the Civil Rights Consortium. She was also a member of the Union Cultural Mexicana Ladies Auxiliary and a full-time volunteer at the Casa Felix Senior Center. Lali was also appointed to the Guadalajara Sister City Commission and the Port Authority Board of Commissioners and has served on the Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast Committee since 1987. Intentional acts of humble service filled each minute of her life. Lali’s commitment to those around her teaches us what it means to be an outspoken and selfless advocate and to meaningfully participate in the community.

Lali’s life reminds us that a single individual relentlessly fighting for what is right can, in fact, change the world around us. Change requires a person with the courage to acknowledge the unjust, the persistence to carry on through hardship, the will to protest loudly, and the spirit to fight until all are seen as equal. For Lali, this all came naturally, and her leadership has left a legacy that will continue to change lives for generations to come. Madam Speaker, let us rise each day and ask ourselves, as Lali Garcia did, how we can positively impact our community. Today, and every day, let us be fervent in service, gentle in heart, and motivated by love—just like Lali before us.

RECOGNIZING THE GRAND OPENING OF THE EDWARD AMBURG HISTORY MUSEUM

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Grand Opening of the Edward Amburg History Museum in Grafton, Illinois, which will take place on Saturday, June 19, 2021.

At age 83, Edward Amburg passed away in November of 2018. He is remembered by the community for his dedication to historical research of his beloved community.

Thanks to Ed’s efforts the City of Grafton received funding to build a museum focused on its storied past. The museum will include documents and artifacts donated by the Grafton Historical Society that will represent the rich

boat making, manufacturing, and farming history that Grafton is known for.

Ed’s passion and dedication for the history of Grafton will carry on through the museum that bears his name.

Again, I thank Ed for the legacy he left behind and congratulations to his wife Bobbie and the entire community. I look forward to visiting this great addition to the City of Grafton.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MAYOR RUDY DURHAM

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the public service career of Rudy Durham, the former mayor of Lewisville, Texas. Mayor Durham devoted almost 30 years of his life in service to his hometown.

Mayor Durham’s second 3-year term as mayor of Lewisville concluded in May 2021, ending 27 consecutive years of service in public office. Prior to his election to the Lewisville City Council in 1994, he volunteered as a member of the Planning and Zoning commission. He served as a city councilman for ten years prior to his first run for mayor.

In his business career, he was a Professional Appraiser and Real Estate Broker, and he retired as Chief Appraiser for the Denton Central Appraisal District in 2019. Mayor Durham takes great pride in being a fourth-generation Lewisville resident and he is the fifth Lewisville High School alumnus to serve as the city’s mayor. During his high school athletic career, Mayor Durham qualified for two state meets in shotput and played on the 1972 state finalist football team. His work on behalf of his community since his graduation in 1974 has merited him a place in the Lewisville High School Hall of Fame.

Under his leadership, Lewisville has continued to grow and thrive, even under the difficult circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. I am pleased to join the residents and businesses of Lewisville in commending Mayor Durham for his efforts to protect his constituents and enhance their quality of life. As Mayor Durham returns to private life, I would like to thank him for his longstanding devotion to his community and wish him the very best in all his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, yesterday, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to vote in Roll Call number 162 on H.R. 1443. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call number 162.