

RECOGNIZING LEWIS H. WEBBER,
A TRUE WORKING-CLASS CHAMPION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 24, 2021

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lewis Webber, the President of Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees (SOAR) Chapter 4-6, for a lifetime of fighting for the working class.

Lewis Webber was born days before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December of 1941 so he was always ready for a good fight. Advocating for the workers at Bethlehem Steel was in his blood, as many of his relatives, including his father, were employed there. Growing up in a union household, he and his brother heard all the stories from their father about the strikes at Bethlehem Steel, including the famous 53-day 1952 Steelworkers strike, ending with a victory for the hard-working Steelworkers.

It was not a surprise that both Lewis and his brother would also go on to work many years of their lives at Bethlehem Steel. Lewis started working at Bethlehem Steel in October of 1964. He was a member in three separate unions: United Steelworkers, Truckdrivers Local Union, and the United Autoworkers. As a member of the United Steelworkers, he recalls fighting to make sure that the proper withholding was taken out of the employees checks. Later, in 1985, Mr. Webber officially won a grievance against Bethlehem Steel, providing 22 workers an additional \$238 a week for two years, and a pension for the rest of their lives.

When Bethlehem Steel shut its doors, the Western New York community was devastated; however, that didn't stop Lewis Webber from continuing to fight for those who had worked there. He joined the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees (SOAR), Chapter 4-6 and put the skills he learned from earlier battles to work as he rose in the ranks of leadership becoming Trustee in 1997, Vice President in 2007, and President of the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees, Chapter 4-6 in 2008. There are 430 members of SOAR, Chapter 4-6 who rely on his leadership today.

Lewis Webber always says that you can never fight these battles alone. His number one supporter was his wife, Beverly who unfortunately passed away in 2011. She was also Secretary of the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees, Chapter 4-6. His children Rosemary, LuAnn, and Kathleen, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren are always by his side, fighting the good fight.

Mr. Webber joined our fight over a decade ago to help former Bethlehem Steel employees receive compensation under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program (EEOICP) and he continues to work with my office to ensure eligible retirees receive the benefits they deserve. Over \$300 million has been paid out to workers and their families after they were exposed to radiation while working at Bethlehem Steel.

Lewis Webber offered many words of advice, including "I am not doing this to make people millionaires; I am doing this to get them what they need to get by in this world.

I am not doing this to help just the Steelworkers; I am doing this to help all Americans," and, "Always fight using your brains, not your fists. At the end of the day your knowledge of the contract will be more likely to help you win the battle." His words demonstrate his commitment to his fellow workers and his lifetime of experience advocating for the interests of Steelworkers.

Many Bethlehem Steel retirees and their families who live in Western New York are better off because Lewis Webber has never stopped and will never stop fighting for them. Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the lifelong commitment that Lewis Webber has shown to the former employees of Bethlehem Steel, the greater Western New York community, and the United States as a whole.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
SHAWN P. HARKINS FOR 25
YEARS OF MILITARY SERVICE

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 24, 2021

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Colonel Shawn P. Harkins for 25 years of distinguished military service.

LTC Harkins has made immeasurable contributions to our great nation and continues to personify the core U.S. Army values of honor, integrity, personal courage, and selfless service. He has served in various positions throughout his career, culminating as the 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) Executive Officer at Fort Bragg.

Over the course of his extraordinary career, LTC Harkins has answered the call of duty many times. He has deployed in excess of 34 months overseas in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM and Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, and his leadership has directly influenced political stability across the globe. As the 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) Executive Officer, LTC Harkins managed a staff of 2,500 soldiers and civilians and he is credited with producing change in the areas of maintenance, readiness, and processes.

LTC Harkins retires as a recipient of multiple awards and decorations and embodies all the qualities of a selfless hero who has answered the call to serve. Our state and country are better because of citizens like him.

As Fort Bragg's Congressman, I know I speak for our nation and community when I say we are truly grateful for LTC Harkins' extraordinary service and cannot thank him enough. I would like to offer my sincerest appreciation and wish him success in his future endeavors.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring Lieutenant Colonel Shawn P. Harkins for 25 years of military service.

RECOGNIZING THE PI CHAPTER OF
ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY,
INC. ON ITS CENTENNIAL
ANNIVERSARY

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 24, 2021

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated (AKA) on its Centennial Anniversary and for a century of service to the Fisk University students, community and the state of Tennessee.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's Pi Chapter at Fisk University celebrates its 100-year Anniversary. In addition, I am humbled that they chose to honor me, Congresswoman FREDERICA S. WILSON, as the University's First AKA Congressional member. I was initiated into the Pi Chapter in the Fall of 1960. Congressional representatives participating include Congressional Black Caucus Chair Congresswoman JOYCE BEATTY and seven AKA Congresswomen—EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, TERRI SEWELL, ALMA ADAMS, BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN, LAUREN UNDERWOOD, and NIKEMA WILLIAMS.

Fisk Graduate and Pi Chapter initiated Chairperson Kimmie Jackson and current Pi Chapter President Taylor Woodard graciously welcomed and thanked the audience for joining this inaugural and auspicious occasion while inspiring all to take action and uphold the sorority's purpose of being "Service To All Mankind."

Representative SHEILA JACKSON LEE (TX) noted that Pi Chapter was the first undergraduate chapter in the South Atlantic Region and that the women of Pi Chapter are known for their honor, academic prowess, and leadership skills. She compared Rep. WILSON to Sojourner Truth who never stepped away her vision and served as a leader in education and civil rights. Rep. WILSON founded the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project and was a leader in the demand to find the 276 Nigerian girls kidnapped by Boko Haram.

Representative ALMA ADAMS (NC) praised Pi Chapter as being the most civically engaged women of goodwill and good work beyond measure. She noted that Honoree WILSON the 5000 Role Models founder has always been a champion of the underserved and that like her fellow Pi Chapter graduates illuminate the opportunities available to women across the country and the world.

Representative EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON (TX) sent congratulatory wishes to Pi Chapter and notes that it stands on the shoulders of many trailblazers. She acknowledged Congresswoman WILSON's visionary leadership and service as an undeterred true champion for black girls and boys.

Representative TERRI SEWELL (AL) congratulated Pi Chapter on its Centennial and reminded members that AKA Coretta Scott King famously observed "struggle is a never-ending process . . . we earn it and win it in every generation." Representative SEWELL praised Centennial Honoree WILSON for expanding opportunities for all Americans, founding 5000 Role Models Project, and sponsoring legislation to create the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys.

Representative LAUREN UNDERWOOD (IL) remarked that Pi Chapter has had a tremendous

impact on the Fisk University community and that its Centennial Anniversary coincides with the release of the documentary film TWENTY PEARLS about Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the first black Greek letter organization founded in 1908. Representative UNDERWOOD also celebrated Honoree WILSON's AKA legacy as the 11th South Atlantic Regional Director and First Pi Chapter alumnae to serve in the United States Congress.

Representative NIKEMA WILLIAMS (GA) honored Pi Chapter for reaching its 100-year milestone, its success, strength and courage, and for showing what leadership looks like and changing the world. Rep. WILLIAMS who now holds the seat vacated by the passing of Fisk graduate and civil rights icon, the Honorable John Lewis, praised Congresswoman WILSON for her decade of service fighting for civil rights and voting rights in Congress and holding America to its promise.

Representative JOYCE BEATTY (OH), current Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, which is celebrating its 50th Anniversary and is known as the "conscious of the Congress," saluted and applauded Pi Chapter's organizers, board members, executive staff and all involved in the Centennial Celebration. She saluted Alpha Kappa Alpha for blazing a trail of excellence for over 100 years. CBC Chairwoman BEATTY highlighted Congresswoman WILSON's great successes in establishing the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys, founding of the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project, and efforts to fight for and assist the young girls in Nigeria kidnapped by Boko Haram. Representative BEATTY also noted Representative WILSON's crucial ongoing service on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee; chairs the Education and Labor Committee's Higher Education and Workforce Investment Subcommittee and serves on the Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Subcommittee of the United States Congress and the Biden Administration's economic recovery plans for the American people.

On April 6, 1921, Pi Chapter was chartered at Meharry Medical College by Pauline Kigh Reed, Druceilla Barnadano, Clarise Bartlett, Georgia Blackmore, Wilhelmina Bowles, Mildred Harper, Lelia Lyon and Marie Williams. Pi Chapter was the first undergraduate chapter chartered in the South Eastern Region. The chapter was later moved to the historic Fisk University in 1927.

Over the past 100 years, Pi Chapter has initiated more than one thousand sorority sisters who wear the beautiful colors of salmon pink and apple green. The chapter's motto is "The Fine Light of Pi."

Today, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and the sisters of the Pi Chapter proudly stand firm in the sorority's mission to cultivate and encourage high scholastic and ethical standards, to promote unity and friendship among college women, to study and help alleviate problems concerning girls and women in order to improve their social stature, to maintain a progressive interest in college life, and to be of "Service to All Mankind."

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues and all Americans to please join me in congratulating Pi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated on its Centennial Anniversary and commend it for its contributions to education and for its commitment to the community, state of Tennessee and our country.

HONORING LEON J. ARP

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 24, 2021

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Leon J. Arp of Blacksburg, Virginia, who passed away on July 23, 2021, at the age of 91. Mr. Arp was a veteran and businessman who greatly contributed to the Blacksburg community.

Mr. Arp was born in Norway, Iowa on June 30, 1930, to Hugo and Leova Arp. After graduating from Walford High School in 1948, he spent four years in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War, serving in air reconnaissance. He married his wife, Kathleen Schulte, in 1955.

He went on to earn his Ph.D. from Iowa State University. Mr. Arp later moved to Virginia to serve as a professor emeritus of Mechanical Engineering at Virginia Tech Blacksburg where he taught for 25 years. In his time there he earned various distinctions and honors for his teaching and research.

Mr. Arp is best known for developing the Arp Respirator in the late 1960s. This design was created to aid infants facing respiratory distress syndrome—at the time the leading cause of infant death in the first week of life. This device is responsible for saving hundreds of infants' lives.

A 1970 Life Magazine profiled this life-saving tool. The article notes that Mr. Arp designed a respirator that could handle the delicacy of premature infants after nearly losing one of his own children to respiratory syndrome. This machine attended an infant's gasp for breath more sensitively than any device in existence at the time. Mr. Arp had continual innovation throughout his career and retained more than 25 patents.

Mr. Arp was preceded in death by his son, William. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Kathleen; his children, Nicholas, John, and Joseph; and eight grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. I would like to extend to them my condolences.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF KELSEY BEGAYE

HON. TOM O'HALLERAN

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 24, 2021

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Kelsey Begaye, the fifth president of the Navajo Nation, who passed away this month at the age of 70.

A Vietnam veteran, a devoted public servant, and a leader in faith, Kelsey Begaye served his country, his community, and his people for decades.

In 1969, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving in Vietnam as a specialist fourth radio operator for four years.

In the years that followed, he brought dedication and compassion to his work as a substance abuse counselor, a representative of the Kaibeto Chapter in the Navajo Nation Council, and as the fifth president of the Navajo Nation.

Through countless roles, he leaves behind a legacy of faith and a fierce desire to change

the lives of those living in his community for the better.

My wife and I are keeping Mr. Begaye's family, loved ones, and the Navajo Nation in our prayers as we mourn his passing.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRSTSTATE BANK

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 24, 2021

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of FirstState Bank.

In late 1968, Mr. J.B. McCord, Gen. Robert Duke, Mr. J.O. McCain and Mr. Don Hogan worked with attorney Mr. T. Reuben Bell to create a local bank to serve their community.

FirstState Bank first opened in 1971 as First State Bank of Lineville. A few years later, the bank changed to First State Bank of Clay County. As the bank grew, another location was added in Wedowee and the name was changed to what it is today, FirstState Bank.

The original organizers include: Mr. J.B. McCord, Mr. Bill Ogle, Mr. L.D. Walker, Mr. Bernard Spurlin, Mrs. Bessie McCrary, Mr. Robert Howell, Ms. Nina Faye Bonner, General Robert W. Duke, Mr. Grover Bearden, Mr. W.W. Young, Mr. Don Hogan, Mr. Lester Proctor, Mr. Charles Taylor and Mr. J.O. McCain.

Johnny Appleby was the first employee hired by the bank and worked there until his passing in 2019.

Today, FirstState Bank is thriving under the leadership of President and CEO Steve Foster.

The bank serves both Clay and Randolph Counties.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the 50th anniversary of FirstState Bank.

REMEMBERING GERALD WESLEY DONOVAN

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 24, 2021

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a dear friend and a great Marylander who passed away on July 31. Gerald Wesley Donovan was not just the former Mayor of Chesapeake Beach in Calvert County, Maryland. He was the heart and soul of the town and the center of its community for decades. Gerald dedicated his life to preserving the memory of Chesapeake Beach as it had been generations prior and working to reinvigorate it with a new energy for the twenty-first century and as a place where future generations of Marylanders and visitors could enjoy all the best the town and its surroundings could offer.

Having grown up in the county and attended Calver High School, Gerald was raised with a love of service, a love of learning, and a love of country. In addition to attending Baltimore College of Commerce, Prince George's Community College, and the University of Maryland, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in