

RECOGNIZING REBECCA
LOCKRIDGE

HON. RASHIDA TLAI

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2022

Ms. TLAI. Madam Speaker, today I want to celebrate the life of Rebecca Lockridge, a long-time resident of Southwest Detroit in Michigan's 13th District Strong, on the occasion of her one hundredth birthday.

Mother Rebecca Lockridge was born on July 24, 1922 in Columbia, Tennessee, and later moved to Detroit, Michigan on February 9th, 1944 at the age of twenty-two with her sister, Martha. She married the love of her life, Albert B. Lockridge in 1946, raising five children in the home on Prairie Street that they bought as newlyweds. Mother Lockridge has remained an active and engaged neighbor through her work with the Midwest Civic Council, where she served as Treasurer for decades, as well the Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church. She also served as a career counselor at Chadsey High School for more than two decades, guiding our community's youth in their college and career endeavors. Mother Lockridge has contributed so much value to her community, family, and friends. After her retirement, Mrs. Lockridge has maintained her good health by participating in a local exercise group, cooking healthy meals, and enjoying the sun with her friends and family, including her four grandchildren, and several great-grandchildren. May she continue to shine bright, surrounded by love and laughter in the years ahead.

Please join me in wishing a happy 100th birthday to Mother Rebecca Lockridge, a paragon of Detroit's perseverance and a figure of notable civic service in Michigan's 13th District Strong.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF KAREN
KELLY

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2022

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Karen Kelly, one of the most dynamic female leaders in Kentucky politics, who has worked with me through various roles in southern and eastern Kentucky over the last 28 years. She has served as my District Director for Kentucky's Fifth Congressional District since 2013, and as she moves on to the private sector, I want to honor her today before my House colleagues who understand the immense value of having a fierce and loyal leader on the frontlines in the district while we are working diligently on Capitol Hill for our people at home.

Karen is the most recent of many incredible female leaders that I have been blessed to have on staff, starting with my very first Chief of Staff in Washington, Marty Driesler. Marty was a force of nature and was instrumental in many of my early successes in Congress—just as Karen Kelly has been in Kentucky for nearly three quarters of my tenure in Congress. Much of my staff in Washington and in Kentucky have become long-tenured experts

in their respective fields, providing excellent aid to folks across Kentucky's Appalachian region, and trusted advisors during my public service in the U.S. House of Representatives—and chief among them being Karen Kelly.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher once said, "If you set out to be liked, you would be prepared to compromise on anything at any time, and you would achieve nothing." As we know well in Congress, the world of politics isn't for weak-minded, spineless individuals. To be effective, you must stand firm on the values you hold dear, even at the risk of losing popularity; however, Karen has managed to maintain both. In fact, she has become one of the most highly respected leaders in Kentucky because of her relentless commitment to her conservative values and her courage of conviction to do what's best for the people of our region, even when the going gets tough.

In 1994, Karen started out answering the phones and doing casework in my Pikeville office, quickly working her way up to become a Field Representative in my Hazard office. From day one she proved to be a highly motivated and promising visionary with an intense work ethic to accomplish any task that I set in her path. Soon after, I asked her to lead the Eastern Kentucky PRIDE organization, a non-profit environmental education and improvement task force to help clean up our hillsides, lakes, and streams across Kentucky's Fifth District. She quickly learned the complex ropes of grant funding and grew PRIDE's outreach operations in the schools. She also led the charge for more water and sewer project opportunities with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and exponentially grew volunteer cleanup participation.

In the early 2000s, I quickly realized that we had another crisis to clean up in Eastern Kentucky when a deadly scourge of prescription overdose deaths was ignited by a flood of overprescribed powerful painkillers in our rural region. When I considered the best person to give life to this multifaceted response, I tapped Karen to take on an unprecedented role and lead the nation's first rural holistic organization to combat the growing drug epidemic. Together, we named it Operation UNITE—Unlawful Narcotics Investigations, Treatment and Education. She formulated my vision into a comprehensive task force that become a model for the rest of the country—and she didn't stop in Eastern Kentucky. Karen helped me coordinate with like-minded leaders in Washington on the issue to launch the National Rx Drug Abuse Summit, putting Operation UNITE's efforts on the national stage. We welcomed approximately 750 attendees to the first Rx Summit in 2012 in Orlando, Florida, and today, it is the largest comprehensive convention of its kind, with four U.S. Presidents serving as keynote speakers, along with leaders from each of Nation's top agencies on illicit drug-related policies.

Nine years ago, I asked her to return to my Congressional office to help me reinvigorate and revitalize southern and eastern Kentucky just as the coal industry was targeted by a relentless regulatory war that led to the loss of more than 12,000 coal mining jobs. During that time, she helped me establish the bipartisan SOAR initiative—Shaping Our Appalachian Region, with former Governor Steve Beshear. Her diligent work and coordination

were invaluable to our early comprehensive efforts to formulate and lead the SOAR organization and gain the trust of our constituents as we worked hard to bring jobs and new industry opportunities to the region, including the state's largest rural broadband expansion project and much more.

I often remind folks that our best resource in Eastern Kentucky isn't coal, tobacco, or timber—it's our people—and Karen exemplifies that. Her sheer determination to improve our region through compassionate advocacy and excellence in project execution has made a resounding impact across our region. While she has rightfully earned recognition and many accolades for her public service, her quiet generosity behind the scenes is a testament to her heart for God. Over the years, she has personally taken some of our less fortunate youth under her wing, providing support and encouragement to help them take hold of their own destiny. Today, many of them are now following in her footsteps to become the next generation of bright young rising leaders.

I am personally grateful to have had such a wonderful leading lady by my side over the last 28 years and I wish Karen and her family the very best in years to come.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF ELMER LEE DAVIDSON

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2022

Mr. FALLON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commemorate the life and service of Elmer Lee Davidson who lived 99 extraordinary years before his passing on June 9, 2022. Mr. Davidson was born February 4, 1923 to G. Edgar and Minnie Bass Davidson. Shortly after the outbreak of WWII, Mr. Davidson and five of his high school buddies literally climbed out of a school window to enlist in the U.S. Army. At the age of 17, these brave young men lied about their age to answer the call to fight against the Nazis. Throughout their time in Europe, each of Mr. Davidson's five high school best friends lost their lives fighting in support of the Allies.

Elmer's first taste of battle was near Bizerte, Tunisia on October 18, 1943, against the infamous German Field Marshal Johannes Rommel. After their triumph the 933rd departed Tunisia for Naples, Italy. Shortly thereafter, the 933rd Field Artillery Battalion was merged into the 940th Field Artillery Battalion.

For almost 2 years in direct combat, Elmer served as a radio dispatcher/radio technician, Technical Sergeant in the 940th Field Artillery Battalion, under the command of General George Patton and later General Omar Bradley. Elmer was on the front lines in North Africa, Italy, France, Germany, and Austria. He participated in numerous historic battles including the breakthrough of the Gustav Line at Monte Cassino, one of the bloodiest, costliest, and coldest sieges in WWII. For his contributions, Elmer was awarded the French Croix de Guerre Silver Star. Then, the battalion shifted direction to support the Rome Amo Campaign for the liberation of Rome, Siena, and Florence.

Once secured, the 940th moved to Sarreguemines, France in support of the campaign to breach the Siegfried Line and cross

the Rhine River into Germany. Shortly after entering Germany, he was witness to the shocking tragedies of the Mannheim-Sandhofen concentration camp. He would also support the 45th Infantry Division's liberation efforts at the Dachau concentration camp in April 1945. After the surrender of Nazi Germany, Elmer arrived home in Dallas on August 15, 1945.

Once retired from the U.S. Army, Mr. Davidson worked at A.H. Belo Corporation newspaper company for over 43 years, later becoming its publisher. Mr. Davidson fully retired in 1988 to enjoy life with his beautiful wife Frankie. He also received multiple civic awards including Citizen of the Year from the City of Grand Prairie. Without a doubt, Mr. Davidson lived a life of dedicated service to his community and country.

Madam Speaker, I have shared with the House today only a small portion of this hero's life. I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capital to recognize Elmer Lee Davidson, a member of the greatest generation. Furthermore, Madam Speaker, I extend my personal condolences to the Davidson family for the loss of such an extraordinarily brave and loving man. May God rest the soul of this great American.

HONORING ORLI SHEFFEY AND
SHEDDING LIGHT ON THE MEN-
TAL HEALTH CRISIS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2022

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I am here to shed light on the unprecedented mental health crisis that is devastating countless families, including many in my own community.

Earlier this year, I attended the funeral of Orli Sheffey, an outstanding young constituent, and the daughter of my dear friend Steve Sheffey. She passed away at the age of 19 as a result of mental illness—an invisible illness that far too many Americans confront. I rise to honor Orli today. In Hebrew, Orli means “my light,” and Orli was a light to so many. She was a daughter, a sister, a classmate, and a friend, and while her time on this Earth was brief, her impact is lasting.

It is clear that we must confront the nationwide mental health crisis. Too many people feel like they are in darkness. Too many people feel alone and ashamed. And too many people cannot find the resources and health care that they need. According to reports, 4 in 10 Americans report suffering from anxiety or depression. It's not hard to see why. Americans have been forced to deal with a devastating pandemic, mass shootings, racial injustice, and increasing hate crimes and intolerance.

Congress and the Biden-Harris Administration recognize this crisis. I am proud that we passed the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act, to improve mental health resources for healthcare workers. I am grateful that the 9–8–8 suicide and crisis lifeline is now LIVE. I urge anyone who is struggling with a mental health crisis to call the 9–8–8 lifeline. And we need to make sure that the resources that Congress has already created are known

and easily accessible. In 2016, my bill, the Mental Health on Campus Act was enacted through an appropriations package. It created a grant program to ensure that colleges and universities could provide vital mental health resources for students. We must make sure students can access these resources and do not feel ashamed or stigmatized for doing so. There is much more work to be done.

It is critical at this moment that we honor Orli. Part of what we can do is to work to shine light on this crisis. I will never stop fighting to ensure that the mental health needs of our communities are met.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JODY B. HICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2022

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I missed the below Roll Call Votes due to pending judicial matters.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 364, NAY on Roll Call No. 365 (Previous Question), and NAY on Roll Call No. 366 (Rule).

RECOGNIZING THE 2022 WORLD
COMING TOGETHER TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE (WOCOTOMADI)
INTERNATIONAL KINGS DAY

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2022

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, in recognition of World Coming Together to Make a Difference (WOCOTOMADI) International Kings Day 2022, I want to highlight the visit of the below dignitaries from Africa and the good work of this organization:

His Majesty Dada Awiyan Kokpon, Benin; Princess NIARE MAYE ASSANATOU and Dr. Boubacar Diakite, Mali; Bishop Kilem KASSi Daniel, His Majesty Tchiffi Zie Jean Gervais, Ivory Coast; His Majesty Nfonrifou Mbombo Njoya Mouhamed Nabil, His Royal Highness Sonkwe Djiotsa Adrien, His Majesty Soukoudjou Jean Rameaux, His Majesty Tchoua Kemajou Vincent, His Majesty Tanefo Jean Marie, His Majesty Njitack Ngompe Pelé, His Majesty Tchio Maurice, His Majesty Toto Bekombo Théodore, His Majesty Esoa Etoqa Gabriel Sylvain, His Majesty Mbassi Bessala Prosper Parfait, His Majesty Elong Kotto Pierre Patrick, His Majesty Molive Molungu Otto, Her Majesty Mama Jean Marie, His Majesty Tsala Ndjomo Guy, His Majesty WEA TOUTOU Jean Jacques; His Majesty Roger II NKAMADJOU; His Majesty ONDIGUI ONANA Théodore; His Majesty DISSAKE MOUANGUE Alain Camille; His Majesty YONKEU Jean; His Majesty TATABONG Alexander; His Majesty Lamido Yacouba Mohamadou Mourtalla; His Majesty Soumbou Angoula, His Majesty Ndong Tchombe William, His Majesty Djarnou Tchanchouang Annick Julio, His Majesty SIKAM HAPPI V Sylvester, His Majesty Ibrahim El Rachidine, His Majesty Bakari Yerima Bouba Alioum, His Majesty Etundi Atanga Firmin Jean Benoît, His Majesty Effa

René Désiré, His Majesty Fon Jou Wilson, Her Majesty Asaba Fontem, His Majesty Ntsek Serge, Prince Théophile Tatsitsa Gha, Cameroon; S.M. TEINGNI DETIO Jean-From Bamboutos, His Majesty Dean Marie Mama Center Region. Hon Tchagna Jacqueline Reve Angeline, from Bazou, Nde, Cameroon, Hon Toukam Sandjio Tela Angele, from Mifi, Bafoussam, Cameroon, Hon Kan Souhaing Colette, from Koungki, Bandjoun, Cameroon, Hon Ayissi Sings from Monateli, Lekie, Cameroon; Eteme bijou Ursule epse Arroye From Kon Yambeta, Ndjornou epse Bendobal Claire from Nitoukoue, Ngonno Essomba Eliane Virginie from Akono, Eric Niat From Nde, Marie Angel Metenga from President of African Mayor Center Region, Zimthern in Bodio Marthe felecite from Bafia, Feuh Mbeugon, and Ngambou Vincent from Douala.

CELEBRATING POSSE LOS
ANGELES' 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2022

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Posse Los Angeles on their 20th Anniversary. Posse Los Angeles is headquartered in California's 34th Congressional District and is the Pacific Coast branch of the national Posse Foundation. The Posse Foundation was founded in 1989 and is dedicated to identifying and supporting public high school students with extraordinary academic and leadership potential who may be overlooked by traditional college selection processes.

The Foundation extends to students the opportunity to pursue personal achievement and academic excellence by placing them in supportive, multicultural teams (“Posses”).

Since 2002, Posse Los Angeles has selected numerous talented and diverse leaders to attend some of the nation's top colleges and universities. Posse Scholars are awarded full-tuition merit scholarships and begin a lifelong relationship with The Posse Foundation that will see them through to graduation and help them become leaders in the workforce.

Today, I am proudly share that the Posse Foundation has identified, recruited, and trained more than 10,000 students with extraordinary academic and leadership potential, and has been recognized as one of the most comprehensive college success and leadership development initiatives in the country.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating Posse Los Angeles on their 20th Anniversary and in wishing them continued success for years to come.

HONORING GRANITE
CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2022

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions to the central coast of California's infrastructure and economy by the Granite Construction Company,