

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARAB COMMUNITY CENTER FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SERVICES

• Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services located in the heart of Dearborn, MI. Created in 1971 out of a storefront on the impoverished south end of Dearborn, ACCESS has been engaging and building a community to empower individuals, families, and community members ever since. What began with a modest, volunteer-run effort to support the growing immigrant population has blossomed into the largest Arab American community nonprofit in the United States. ACCESS has been integral in assisting the growing Arab population as they adapt to life in the United States. By uplifting and advocating for real and meaningful change, they have become committed to safeguarding the engagement of Arab Americans throughout Michigan.

Fittingly, the mission of ACCESS is "To empower communities to improve their health and their economic, social, and cultural well-being." Spread throughout metro Detroit, ACCESS has 10 locations that provide more than 120 different programs/services to the community; they provide educational opportunities for youth including the Arab American Youth Leadership course, in which they support and foster the identity of the Arab American youth, as well as their 21st Century Community Learning Centers, which provide academic support during the school year and enrichment in the summer. Children are exposed to topics that focus on their identity and culture, as well as help build their advocacy, leadership, and civic engagement skills through youth empowerment to encourage community involvement.

In addition to youth services, ACCESS also offers a large variety of services to adults, especially recent immigrants. ACCESS provides subsidized immigration services to the community, as well as many free services addressing the community's basic needs, such as tax assistance, legal services, and assistance with public benefits programs. They also provide life skills training to settling families via their Center for Working Families, including financial coaching, workforce development, and skill-building. Most profoundly, ACCESS provides affordable healthcare through two community health and research centers—a fully integrated community health "one-stop service center" that is comprised of medical, public health and research programs, as well as mental and behavioral health programs.

While mainly focused on direct assistance to individuals, ACCESS also works to preserve the Arab American history and cultural identity through national programs such as the National Network for Arab American Communities, the Center for Arab American Philanthropy, and most notably, the

Arab American National Museum, founded in 2005; the museum is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institute and is the Nation's only cultural institution devoted solely to document, preserve, and present the history, culture, and contributions of Arab Americans.

ACCESS has impacted countless lives throughout the course of 50 years. I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing ACCESS for their tireless advocacy and support of the Arab American community, both in Michigan and nationwide. I wish ACCESS continued growth and prosperity in the years ahead.●

120TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROYAL OAK WOMEN'S CLUB

• Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 120th anniversary of the Royal Oak Women's Club. For over 120 years, the Royal Oak Women's Club—ROWC—members have come together for the purpose of society and service within the Royal Oak community.

On the evening of November 8, 1902, 14 local Royal Oak women gathered together in the parlor of Mrs. Frances Lathrup Martin, for the purpose of creating a study club. It was Mrs. Martin herself that became the first president of the newly formed club. At the time of its founding, the club's mission included the expansion of opportunities for local women, pursuit of issues such as pediatric health and safety, and the promotion of general well-being within the Royal Oak community.

Over the years, as the ROWC expanded its presence in the area by joining larger regional organizations such as the General Federation of Women's Clubs—GFWC—the Michigan Federation of Women's Clubs—GFWC MI—Detroit Federation of Women's Clubs, and the Oakland County Federation of Women's Clubs. The club also transformed to become increasingly civic-minded, with efforts including local advocacy campaigns that resulted in better safety and sanitary equipment within Royal Oak's local public schools.

One-hundred and twenty years later the club has continued to expand and evolve, and now boasts a membership of over 120 persons, who dedicate their time toward the pursuit of community projects that promote good citizenship, civism, and quality education. The ROWC continues to hold a place of high esteem and local importance to the city, with many community groups and organizations using group's clubhouse as a location to hold meetings and events. The clubhouse itself holds significance, for both club and community. The structure, purchased by the ROWC in the 1920s, was even then one of the oldest buildings in the city. Originally a Baptist church constructed in 1839, the building has been relocated and restored as necessary for its preservation and continued use, but continues to exhibit many original fea-

tures. Upkeep of this structure, which was designated in 1979 as a Michigan Registered Historical Site, 1999 a Royal Oak Historic District, and is known today as the city's oldest building, remains among the club member's highest charges.

The Royal Oak Women's club continues to make a difference today through their philanthropic efforts, as well as by providing the women of Royal Oak with a space they may gather, exchange ideas and knowledge, and pursue the "high ideals" envisioned by the club's original members. Their efforts to support the community continue as well; the club provides financial support to the neonatal unit at Beaumont Hospital, the Royal Oak Library, Haven of Oakland County, the Boys and Girls Club for Southeast Michigan, and the South Oakland Shelter to name just a few of their initiatives. Members of the ROWC also volunteer their time to support the annual Royal Oak Community Awards banquet, the community service luncheon, and the annual Salvation Army Toy Luncheon, in addition to supporting the all-night graduation parties for the three local high schools.

The Royal Oak Women's Club has been an integral part of the Royal Oak community and the overall community of southeast Michigan for more than 120 years. As a Michigander and a resident of Oakland County, I am honored to ask my colleagues in joining me in celebrating this significant milestone for the Royal Oak Women's Club, its members, and the entire city of Royal Oak. I wish the Royal Oak Women's Club continued growth and prosperity in the years ahead.●

REMEMBERING ADA MARKITA FISHER

• Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I rise today to remember a friend and a great North Carolinian, Ada Markita Fisher, who unexpectedly died on October 7, 2022. Ada was 74 years old and only a few weeks away from her 75th birthday.

As a young African-American woman, she was a trailblazer. After completing a degree in biology at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro—UNCG—she went on to become the first Black female to earn a medical degree at the University of Wisconsin's School of Medicine and Public Health. She was also the first Black UNCG alumna to complete a medical degree. Additionally, she completed her masters in public health at Johns Hopkins University's School of Hygiene and Public Health in 1981.

After completing her medical degree, Ada chose to return to North Carolina to provide medical care to an underserved community and lead programs for victims of substance abuse. She spent some of her career in the private sector, but most of her life was dedicated to helping people who were struggling and ultimately making a positive difference in her community.

I met Ada 15 years ago when I began my political service in the North Carolina General Assembly. From the first time I met her, I was inspired by her courage, focus, and plain talk. She was a lifelong Republican. She was dedicated to the party of Abraham Lincoln, and she did not hesitate to challenge anyone from across the political spectrum who threatened the principles of personal liberty, individual responsibility, and social justice.

Although I met Ada after she retired, she never seemed to slow down. She traveled across the State advocating for common sense “prescriptions” to the challenges we faced. She became the first African-American to be elected Republican National Committee—RNC—committeewoman for North Carolina. Ada was known for her letters. Some were focused on policies she was promoting, and others were focused on challenging policies she did not think were helpful. Whether or not you agreed with her opinion, you had to respect the thoughtfulness and the work she put into them.

When Ada wasn't working on public policy, she was focused on her family. Ada never married, but she adopted two sons who blessed her with two grandchildren. She also had three siblings and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins. She adored her family, and they adored her.

I attended Ada's funeral last month, and I was honored to speak at her memorial service. While I was considering what I should say, it occurred to me that I had never written a letter to Ada, so I decided to write a letter to her and deliver it at the memorial. I wished that I had sent it long before her passing, but I hope she enjoys it nonetheless as she reads it in heaven.

Dear Ada, I'm sorry I am just now sending you this letter, but I hope it finds you well in the Kingdom of Heaven. I regret that I haven't had the opportunity to see you recently, but I am glad that my last memory of you was giving you a hug when we were together. Had I known it was to be the last time I would see you, I would have hugged you a little longer.

After I received the sad news of your passing, I reflected on the times we spent together, and it gave me some comfort as I grieved your loss. I knew you as a staunch advocate for people who are struggling, for diversity, for personal responsibility, and for individual freedom. I remember so many times when you challenged a crowd to think differently. You didn't look for applause lines, you looked for opportunities to make a point and to make a difference. You didn't hesitate to get people out of their comfort zone by saying what needed to be said, and you gained many followers and admirers along the way.

I am embarrassed to admit that I only knew a small part of your work since the time we met 15 years ago, and I did not fully comprehend your life's work with helping others. I've studied

you more since your passing Ada, and you are truly even more remarkable than I imagined.

As a young African American woman, you excelled in academics—a medical degree and a master's degree in public health. You could have taken a life-long path to personal enrichment, but you chose to return home to North Carolina to set up a rural health clinic and programs to help people struggling with substance abuse. You helped veterans.

You studied education and became a certified teacher in math and science. You served in what I believe is the most difficult political position on earth—a local school board. Man, I wish they were televised in those days. I'm sure it would have been a sight to see! You understood that education is the surest path to freedom, and you worked hard to ensure that every child (including your two sons) had an opportunity to pursue that path.

The truth is, Ada, you have done so much for so many, and you've set a high bar for the rest of us. I am saddened that you left this earthy world far too soon because I know you had so many more things you would do to make it a better place. But thank you for everything you did Ada, and thank you for the blessing of your friendship.

Now that you've had a few weeks in the Kingdom of Heaven, I hope you've found time to rest. You deserve it, Ada. Know that we are praying for you and that we love you, and we will continue to be inspired by your life's work.

With Love and Admiration, Thom T.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 1928a, and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly to fill the existing vacancy thereon: Mr. Crow of Colorado.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 703 of the Social

Security Act (42 U.S.C. 903), and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Social Security Advisory Board for a term of 6 years, effective October 9, 2022: Mrs. Amy Shuart Gingrich of Alexandria, Virginia.

The message also announced that pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 2004(b), and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation, to fill the existing vacancy thereon: Mr. Kim of New Jersey.

The message further announced that pursuant to 29 U.S.C. 780, and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the National Council on Disability: Ms. Sascha Bittner of San Francisco, California.

The message also announced that pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 2501, and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission: Mrs. Hayes of Connecticut.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 50802 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-123), and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Speaker reappoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission on Social Impact Partnerships: Ms. Anne Wilson of San Rafael, California.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 8987. An act to amend the Justice for United States Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Act to authorize appropriations for catch-up payments from the United States Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Fund.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on October 17, 2022, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 169. An act to amend title 17, United States Code, to require the Register of Copyrights to waive fees for filing an application for registration of a copyright claim in certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

S. 442. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to require the Administrator of General Services to procure the most life-cycle cost effective and energy efficient lighting products and to issue guidance on the efficiency, effectiveness, and economy of those products, and for other purposes.

S. 516. An act to plan for and coordinate efforts to integrate advanced air mobility aircraft into the national airspace system, and for other purposes.

S. 958. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to expand the allowable use criteria for new access points grants for community health centers.