

Mr. Speaker, congratulations to St. Philip's Church on this memorable day. May God continue to bless the Church, their leaders, and the congregation in the present and future.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MOTORCITIES NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the MotorCities National Heritage Area (MCNHA) on the 25th anniversary of their founding. Their preservation and promotion of our area's unique automotive and labor history is worthy of commendation.

The MCNHA was inspired by the 100th anniversary of the automobile, an invention that shaped not only our state but the entire 20th century. In 1896, Henry Ford test drove his first automobile, the Quadricycle, through the streets of Detroit. Legislation co-sponsored by two Michigan Congressmen, John D. Dingell and Joe Knollenburg, was signed into law in 1998 by President Clinton. This law designated over 10,000 square miles, 260 municipalities and townships, and 1,200 auto and labor related sites as the MotorCities National Heritage Area.

The automotive and labor history of the region begins with Henry Ford and the Ford Motor Company, founded in 1903 in Dearborn, MI. Key investors in that company were brothers Horace and John Dodge, who would go on to found their own brand of vehicles in 1914. The moving assembly line that Ford introduced in 1913 at their Highland Park Plant would revolutionize not only industry, but labor as well. Daily wages were more than doubled to \$5, shifts were reduced from 9 to 8 hours long, and the mass production of vehicles allowed automobiles to become much more accessible to the average American. Major international automotive brands, like GM (1908), Chevrolet (1911), and Chrysler (1925), were also founded in the Detroit region at that time. Decades later, car factories were converted to produce bombers in order to help in the Second World War. The factories of this area, like Willow Run in Ypsilanti, were so crucial to the effort that this region came to be known as the "Arsenal of Democracy".

Over the last 25 years, the MCNHA has built an appreciation in both residents and visitors for how the automobile changed Michigan, the nation, and the world. With the vast number of heritage sites across the region, the MCNHA started a grant program to focus on partnerships, connecting organizations and providing resources critical for preservation and promotion. It has directly provided over \$1 million in grants to over 100 organizations to make these preservation, tourism, and educational projects a reality. The MCNHA has also been a boon for the State of Michigan, generating over \$400 million in economic impact annually while supporting over 4,500 quality jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the 25th anniversary of the MCNHA. Our auto and labor industry helped establish and expand the United States as an industrial power and was a driving force

for the creation of the middle class, and we thank the MCNHA for their great work in promoting and preserving our unique legacy. Just last year they were reauthorized for another 15 years, and we are excited to see how they will continue to tell our incredible story. Thank you to MCNHA.

HONORING PASTOR ROGER SPRADLIN, FOUNDER OF THE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH, BAKERSFIELD

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2023

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the remarkable life of Pastor Roger Spradlin.

Born in Oklahoma in 1955, Pastor Spradlin graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee in 1977. He then enrolled in Criswell College in Dallas, Texas, where he began to formulate his vision to open a grand church in California.

Pastor Spradlin arrived in Bakersfield, California, in the late 1970s, serving as both a pastor and the Baptist Student Union Director at California State University, Bakersfield. During this time, he began demonstrating to our community that he was a man of resilient faith and steadfast compassion. Pastor Spradlin boldly embarked with other local pastors on a mission to create a Bakersfield-area Baptist campus.

Valley Baptist Church was born and grew in size over the next decade to a 2,000-seat auditorium by the late 1990s. Under Pastor Spradlin's leadership and vision, Valley Baptist would incorporate three additional campuses in the Bakersfield area, where services are now conducted in four different languages to meet the needs of our community.

In addition to his work in Bakersfield, Pastor Spradlin proved himself a renowned leader in the California Southern Baptist Convention. Exemplifying the highest standards of moral and spiritual leadership, Pastor Spradlin served as chairman of the trustees of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, as well as chairman of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

While Pastor Spradlin held an impressive list of accomplishments in Southern Baptist Convention leadership, he is remembered most fondly for his lasting, positive impact on countless lives. His sermons underpinned his passion and commitment to the salvation of all those with whom he spoke, balancing truth with the tenderness of grace.

Pastor Spradlin lived a remarkable life as a true pillar of Bakersfield. He cared for those in need with humility and grace, and made a difference in countless lives, including mine. He helped spread the message of God's love not only throughout our community, but around the world. While Pastor Spradlin will be greatly missed, I am certain that his legacy will live on through Valley Baptist Church and the Valley Baptist church family who I know will continue to strive to sustain the vision he brought to our community.

Judy and I offer our sincere condolences to Pastor Spradlin's family—his wife of 46 years, Ginger, their 3 children, Andrew, Matthew, and

Faith, and 10 grandchildren. We will always cherish his friendship, remember the wisdom he imparted on us and our community, and keep his family and all those who attend Valley Baptist in our prayers.

On behalf of the 20th Congressional District of California, I would like to honor the life and legacy of Pastor Roger Spradlin for his dedication to Christ, leading a great congregation, and for being a beacon of compassion and love that the whole Bakersfield community will miss.

RECOGNIZING DISTINGUISHED MILITARY SERVICE WITHIN WESTERN NEW YORK: CLARENCE VETERANS DAY CEREMONY 2023

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2023

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to in honor of Veterans Day, and the service and sacrifice of those brave men and women who dedicated their lives to protecting the United States of America. Western New York has a strong tradition of service, and I speak today to join the Clarence community in recognizing the valor of 16 veterans who have served our Nation proudly.

On November 11, 2023—this Veterans Day—these 16 names will be added to the Clarence Veteran's Memorial Honor Walls. I am honored to include in the Record their names to be remembered forever.

Edward T. Ballow—Army
Mark A. Callanan—Marine Corps
Douglas J. Chadwick—Marine Corps
John C. Gettens—Army
Jack M. Leo—Air Force
Vernon A. Miller—Navy
Donald R. Miller—Army
Claron R. Miller—Army
Willis F. Miller—Army
Christopher L. Odien—Navy
John W. Patton—Navy
Albert Rabin, Sr.—Army
Robert H. Riegle—Army
Kenneth G. Schroeder, Jr.—Navy
Donald C. Valone—Air Force
Donald H. Webster, Jr.—Air Force

On behalf of the constituents of the 23rd District of New York, the United States Congress, and a grateful Nation, please join me in thanking these brave men for their dutiful service to the greatest country on earth.

RECOGNIZING ORANGE HIGH SCHOOL'S JROTC PROGRAM

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2023

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Orange High School's Marine Corps Junior ROTC Program and its cadets.

In 1955, Master Gunnery Sergeant James H. Fearn petitioned to establish the first ever Marine Corps JROTC Program in any Orange County High School. His request was repeatedly denied, but the Master Gunnery Sergeant remained committed and traveled to Washington, D.C. to demand a meeting with the

Commandant of the Marine Corps. After speaking with the General a few days later, Master Gunnery Sergeant Fearn returned to Orange County having secured the charter.

Today, Orange High School has one of the largest Marine Corps JROTC Program in the Western United States. The JROTC Program instills in its 162 cadets the values of citizenship, service to others, self-discipline, and personal responsibility.

Personal success after high school is an integral part of this program, exemplified by the James H. Fearn Marine Corps JROTC Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship awards cadets who wish to attend college or pursue a vocational school certification. Last year, 12 cadets received this prestigious award.

As we prepare to celebrate the 248th birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps, I am proud to recognize Orange High School's JROTC program and its cadets. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these accomplished students as they grow to become the leaders of tomorrow.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANDREW S. CLYDE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2023

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 638, I mistakenly voted Nay when I intended to vote Yea.

HONORING GOLDEN VALLEY'S COMMITMENT TO OUR NATION'S HEROES

HON. MATTHEW M. ROSENDALE, Sr.

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2023

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, on this Veterans Day, I rise to recognize the people of Golden Valley, Montana, who are honoring the brave Montanans who served our Nation in World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and Afghanistan with a new memorial in the community.

The Treasure State has a long history of military service. And Montanans never fail to remember the sacrifice our men and women in uniform have made to preserve and protect the freedoms we cherish.

Golden Valley is no different. I commend the work they have done to build a memorial to allow us all to pay tribute to those who have fought for our country.

It is a privilege to represent the people of Golden Valley in Congress. It is also a privilege to recognize their commitment to honoring our Nation's heroes in the U.S. House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO VETERANS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2023

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to all the men and women who

have served in the Armed Forces of the United States and risked their lives to defend our freedoms and way of life and took and lived the oath to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic."

Our Veterans have borne "true faith and allegiance to the same, an obligation they took freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion."

Veterans are truly heroes walking among us.

I want to thank all of our armed servicemen and women for their selfless dedication to our protection every day.

Veterans Day is a reminder to all of us who live in freedom that as President Kennedy said, "The price of freedom is high, but Americans have always paid it."

This Veterans Day is a welcome opportunity to remember the fallen who gave the last full measure of devotion to their country on battlefields around the world—in places whose names may be unforgettable—or locations that have slipped into the pages of history.

We will never forget:

Revolutionary War—Valley Forge; York Town;

Civil War—The Battle of Antietam; The Battle of Gettysburg;

World War I—The Battle of Argonne; Flanders Field; Verdun;

World War II—Pearl Harbor; Battle of Bataan; The Battle of Midway; D-Day; Battle of the Bulge; Battle of Anzio; Battle of Corregidor;

Korean War—Inchon; Heart Break Ridge; Pork Chop Hill;

Vietnam—Tet Offensive; Battle of Hue;

Desert Storm—September 11, 2001; Pentagon Attack (125 killed);

Operation Enduring Freedom; Battle of

Kandahar;

Operation Iraqi Freedom; Second Battle of

Fallujah; Operation Allies Refuge; Operation Allies Welcome.

The memory of the fallen is never forgotten. Mr. Speaker, each Veterans Day, Americans come together to remember those who have served our country around the world in the name of freedom and democracy.

The debt that we owe to them is immeasurable.

Their sacrifices, and those of their families, are freedom's foundation.

Without the brave efforts of all the soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and Coast Guardsmen and women and their families, our country would not live so freely.

I offer my deepest gratitude to our nation's 1.4 million troops and reservists, their families, and the 16.2 million veterans, including 22,809 here in the 18th Congressional District.

16.2 million brave men and women are veterans of our nation's military service.

This includes more than 1.7 million women, 2.7 million African American men and women, 1.32 million Hispanic men and women, 342,000 Asian American Pacific Islanders, and 113,000 American Indians.

Of the veteran population in the country, 1.5 million veterans call Texas their home.

We use Veterans Day to show our veterans and military families how important they are to us and how grateful we are for them each day.

November is National Caregivers Month to show our caregivers how grateful we are for them.

It is only fitting that we thank those caregivers who serve our military today.

5.5 million spouses, parents, children, and other loved ones care for our wounded warriors and 15 percent of caregivers spend 40+ hours a week providing care for our military families.

As a senior member of the House Committee on Judiciary and Homeland Security, I care deeply about our veterans.

In Congress, I have sponsored many legislative proposals and co-sponsored more than 50 pieces of legislation that will positively benefit our veterans and their families.

Including H.R. 232, the Real Justice for Our Veterans Act of 2023, which looks to prioritize veterans court treatment programs, ensuring equal access for women, as well as racial and ethnic minorities who have served.

Additionally, I introduced H.R. 236, which would create a "Battle Buddy Check Week," meant to provide outreach and education, as well as peer wellness checks for Veterans.

On the battlefield, the military pledges to leave no soldiers behind.

As a Nation, let it be our pledge that when they return home, we will leave no veteran behind.

This day and every day, let us honor their service with actions that fulfill our commitment to our troops, their families, and our veterans—and that are worthy of our grateful Nation.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF LULA MAE PARKER-HARRIS

HON. MARCUS J. MOLINARO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2023

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Lula "Mae" Parker-Harris, a pillar of the Dutchess County community who was beloved by all who knew her. Mae recently passed away on August 27, 2023, at the age of 79.

Mae attended public schools and was educated at Dutchess Community College. She spent her career at various organizations including Dutchess Community Day Care Center, Wassaic Developmental Center, and Astor Head Start.

Mae was known throughout the community for her selflessness and integrity. A devoted member of the Smith Metropolitan AME Zion Church, she was committed to civil activism, social responsibility, and equity and equality in and around her community. Her contributions to Poughkeepsie, NY and Dutchess County will endure for generations to come, and she will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in recognizing the life of Lula Mae Parker-Harris, a remarkable woman who made a lasting difference in her community.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LEGENDARY COACH BOB KNIGHT

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 2023

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and legacy of a legendary Hoosier, Coach Bob Knight, I would like to include