

been identified with a potentially life-threatening Primary Immunodeficiency requiring life-saving medical care far away from home. Jeffrey asked Vicki to “Do Something,” and she did.

As I stand today and extend my heartfelt condolences to Vicki’s husband, Fred, as well as her family, friends, and colleagues, I am inspired to continue to work with them and the Jeffrey Modell Foundation to honor Vicki’s memory by making a difference in the lives of those diagnosed with Primary Immunodeficiency and their loved ones. I look forward to the day when we realize her ultimate dream of finding a cure. I know I, like so many others, will keep the memory of Vicki Modell close as we continue this important work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUSSELL FRY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday February 14, 2024, I voted NO on Roll Call No. 48, when I intended to vote AYE.

IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE N. SCOTT MOMADAY

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor N. Scott Momaday for his remarkable and unforgettable life, a legend to the last word. Mr. Momaday passed away on Wednesday, January 24 in Santa Fe, New Mexico at the age of 89. I offer my sincerest condolences to his family. They are in my prayers to find peace and healing.

Mr. Momaday was born in Lawton, Oklahoma on February 27, 1934. After moving to Arizona, his family moved to Jemez Pueblo, New Mexico, also known as Walatowa—meaning the “people of the valley.” There is no surprise in my mind as to why N. Scott Momaday was inspired by this beautiful place, which was often featured in his brilliant works.

Indeed, Mr. Momaday received the 1969 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for his House Made of Dawn, which is largely credited with igniting a wave of modern Native American literature. He showed us the power of storytelling and the oral tradition—of bringing imagination to life—and shed light on the Native experience and culture. As he once said, “Our very existence consists in our imagination of ourselves.”

Mr. Momaday also reminded us of the importance of the land. He wrote, “We Americans must come again to a moral comprehension of the earth and air. We must live according to the principle of a land ethic. The alternative is that we shall not live at all.”

Today I say thank you to N. Scott Momaday for these stories that preserve the beauty of our lands so that in a changing world, they remain indispensable to our collective well-being for years to come.

Mr. Momaday will be forever remembered across Native America and New Mexico. His writing sparked our imagination and took our

hearts to places our bodies have never touched. He had the ability to paint the picture of a story through the finesse of power in his words. He created space necessary for creative culture to follow. For all this and more, we recognize N. Scott Momaday for his indelible influence on the state of New Mexico and to the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING MR. WILLIAM LYNCH

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. William Lynch for his dedicated service to the Kings County community and to congratulate him on his well-earned retirement from the Kings County Fire Department.

Mr. Lynch’s passion for the fire service began 40 years ago as a volunteer firefighter for Kings County Fire Department. After a few years with the department, Mr. Lynch joined the Hanford Fire Department as a professional firefighter. He quickly moved up the leadership ranks, and was promoted to Captain in 1995, Assistant Chief Fire Marshal in 2004, and Deputy Chief in 2008. In 2011, Mr. Lynch was named Kings County Fire Chief following 24 years of dedicated service with the Hanford Fire Department. After his retirement from the department in 2016, he returned as the Fire Chief in 2020. Over the course of his career, Mr. Lynch has received many professional certifications by the California State Fire Marshal’s Office, including Fire Instructor, Fire Investigator, and Fire Prevention Officer. Mr. Lynch has served as an instructor of fire technology at College of the Sequoias, as well as an instructor of hazardous materials for the California Standardized Training Institute, where he teaches students the skills required to protect their communities from fire hazards and other dangers. Throughout his entire career, and in his many different roles, Mr. Lynch continually demonstrated his commitment to ensuring the safety of our community. Mr. Lynch’s decades of service to his community serve as a true testament to his character and leadership abilities. I am confident the impact he has left on the Kings County Fire Department and the broader Central Valley community will be felt by generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in thanking Lynch for his decades of service to the Central Valley and wishing him a happy and well-earned retirement.

COMMEMORATING THE 5TH ANNUAL SOJOURNER TRUTH LIFE WALK

HON. PATRICK RYAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the 5th annual Sojourner Truth Life Walk, happening this Saturday, February 17th, at Kingston Plaza in Kingston, N.Y.

Truth was an advocate for civil and women’s rights, abolition, and temperance. Born in

Ulster County, NY, in my district, Sojourner Truth endured the brutal and violent punishments of slavery. In 1826, a year before New York’s abolition law went into effect, she and her young daughter ran away to the household of an abolitionist family in New Paltz, New York. Truth became the first Black woman to sue a white man and win, after her son was illegally sold to a plantation owner in Alabama.

Truth joined the Northampton Association of Education and Industry, an abolitionist organization, where she launched her activist career.

In 1851, at the Ohio Women’s Rights Convention, Sojourner Truth spoke powerfully about equal rights for Black women and her experience, as an emancipated Black woman living in America. Her speech moved audiences and captured the attention of many.

As I commemorate her life on Saturday with the Kingston community, I would like to thank the organizers of the event, Black History Month Kingston, My Kingston Kids, Harambee, the City of Kingston, and Seasoned Gives, and all they have done to put this together. Their work has not gone unnoticed.

VIRGINIA’S FOURTH DISTRICT BLACK HISTORY MONTH ESSAY CONTEST—1ST PLACE MIDDLE SCHOOL WINNER, FRANCES WIDMER

HON. JENNIFER L. MCCLELLAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following essay by 1st Place Middle Schooler, Frances Widmer:

Shirley Anita St. Hill Chisholm did many amazing things to pave the way for Black women in politics during her life and legacy. Her childhood, experience in national politics, and tenure as a congresswoman all speak to the remarkable legacy she left behind. She paved the way for Black women to lead in politics by pushing against the odds, by running against white men, and by challenging the political system.

Shirley Chisholm was born in Brooklyn, New York, but when she was three she moved to her system parents’ homeland of Barbados to live with her grandmother. She was an intelligent girl and excelled in school and was “bossy” to all her older cousins. When she was eight years old, she moved back to Brooklyn with her parents. There she would listen into the political conversations her dad would hold and she became more and more interested in politics. She continued in her education and went to Brooklyn College to study Spanish and sociology, but she was not allowed to study political science because she was a Black woman.

As Shirley became more interested in politics, she attended political meetings and joined the 17th Assembly District Democratic Club. In her club, she realized that they did more chores, like writing thank you cards and holding fundraisers, than helping their community. Shirley Chisholm also began to realize that the congressmen were making promises they could not keep. Wanting to change all of these things, she got into action.

In 1968 Shirley Chisholm was the first Black woman to be elected to congress. For her to get to this point, she had to face lots of opposition both because of her race and

gender. Despite that, she knew that she had what it took to govern our country. She won by over 21,000 votes, but not everyone applauded Shirley's win. No one in the congress looked like her. In Congress, her first assignment was a position in the Agricultural Committee in America, but she was disappointed. She then used her position to help feed the hungry including people in Brooklyn, her hometown, Shirley Chisholm said, "You don't make progress by standing on the sidelines, whimpering and complaining. You make progress by implementing ideas." She kept trying and succeeded in her goal.

In 1972 Shirley Chisholm ran to become the Democratic candidate for the Presidential election. She thought that the U.S. government should reflect America. Though her bid was unsuccessful, she broke the barrier for Black women in politics. Chisholm was the first African American to make a bid for a major party's candidate. She famously said, "If you don't have a seat at the table, bring in a folding chair." She made an opportunity for herself and for others to serve in government.

Shirley Chisholm had many firsts: She was the first Black woman to be in Congress and the first Black woman to make a bid for president in a major party. By doing this, she paved the way for Black women to serve in government. Rep. Lee said, "Ms. Chisholm's mission to include women, children, African-Americans, and other minorities in public policy opened the door to a whole new debate lacking in Congress during that time. She is a remarkable woman who paved the way for many of us . . ."

RECOGNIZING THE GRADUATION OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT 159TH RECRUIT CLASS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and the graduates of the 159th Recruit Class. As they prepare to join the ranks of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, I encourage the 19 graduates to reflect on the history of the department and the contributions and dedication of the brave men and women who have served before them to protect our community.

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's Recruit School consists of an extensive and demanding 24-week program. In addition to two weeks of orientation, recruits completed nine weeks of EMT training and eleven weeks of fire suppression training. Upon graduation, these recruits will be certified at the level of Firefighter I/II by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs.

These recruits have the distinct honor of joining one of the best Fire and Rescue Departments in the United States. The efforts of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department have been recognized across this country. Members from the Department serve on the elite VA Task Force 1, which is among the first units called to disaster zones to provide search and rescue support. Members of that Task Force were recognized by the International Association of Fire Chiefs with the Benjamin Franklin Award for Valor as a result of their efforts in the aftermath of the dev-

astating earthquakes that struck Nepal in 2015.

Fairfax County is fortunate to have such excellent ambassadors for our community and I commend them for all that they have done to protect lives and property not only here in Fairfax County, but around the world. As the newest members of the Fire and Rescue Department, the 159th Recruit Class graduates join the department as integral parts of our community's emergency response and public safety team. I am confident that this graduating class will serve the residents of Fairfax County with honor and distinction. It is my great honor to include in the RECORD the names of the 159th Recruit Class:

Michael F. Bookwalter, Blair E. Cerino, Christopher Chong, Antonio J.P. Cipolla, Christopher N. Cognetta, Collin J. Fisher, Kevin J. Flannery, Joshua M. Ford, Imani Y. Gillen, Joseph T. House, Benjamin R. Klingaman, Jacob M. McCabe, Erick Mejia, Erik K. Muhlenhaupt, Nicholas D. Sirinek, Lloyd E. Turner, Jr., Joseph S. Uriarte, Ryan E. Victor, Mitchell J. Wadas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the newest members of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. I thank them for their service to their community and to all members of the Fire and Rescue Department, past and present, I say: "Stay safe."

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CIVIL RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ICON, THOMAS N. TODD

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to pay tribute to a remarkable civil rights leader and social justice icon, Thomas N. Todd. Although his name may not be familiar to everyone, his contributions to social justice and equality in this country are remarkable and have benefited millions of people in ways few others have accomplished. Tom Todd was one of the most electrifying speakers of our time. His impressive oratorical skills were so impactful that his initials "T-N-T" became synonymous with the powerful effect he had on his audiences.

Tom Todd was born in Demopolis, Alabama, in 1938. He later moved to Chicago, Illinois, where he married Janice Roberts. They had two children together, Tamara Nicole and Tracey Newborn. Tom lived in Chicago until he passed away on February 8, 2024.

As a child in Demopolis, Tom's family was poor. His father passed away shortly after his birth. Tom was raised by his mother and stepfather. Unfortunately, his mother also passed away when he was only 20 years old. Due to his stepfather's illiteracy, Tom stayed in Mobile to help with the funeral and burial arrangements. He even considered dropping out of school to assist further. However, he eventually enrolled at Southern University in 1959, where he studied political science and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree.

After graduation, Todd returned to Mobile and worked odd jobs for nearly a year until a friend suggested he apply to law school. Todd returned to Southern University for law school

in 1960 and was admitted solely on the recommendation of a dean who met Todd as an undergraduate and recognized his potential. There, law professors and students represented other students who had been arrested for sitting at whites-only lunch counters at five-and-dime and drug stores—an act of civil disobedience aimed at protesting segregation in Baton Rouge. Todd actively participated in the first lawsuit regarding these protests to reach the U.S. Supreme Court, *Garner v. Louisiana* (1961). He graduated magna cum laude and passed the bar exam on his first attempt in 1963.

Todd then secured a position at the solicitor's office in the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C., leaving that job in less than a year to train for the Judge Advocate General's Corps. He practiced law while serving in the United States Army from 1964 to 1967. That same year, he was appointed an assistant U.S. attorney in Chicago. In 1968, he made history by filing the first federal criminal case against a Chicago police officer for violating an individual's civil rights.

According to United Press International, Todd's case was also the first indictment in the country against a law enforcement official under a new civil rights amendment to the federal criminal code. Chicago police officer Joseph Fine was accused of beating up Eldridge Gaston outside a South Side restaurant. Gaston died as a result of his injuries. Although the case ended in an acquittal, the indictment itself sent shockwaves through the Chicago Police Department and political establishment.

In 1969, Todd opened an office devoted to civil rights that became the country's first local U.S. attorney's civil rights office. His next police brutality case would originate from a fight between black and white students at Chicago's Tilden High School, where police officers had allegedly beaten black students. A newspaper photographer captured one incident, which showed Officer James J. Gorman standing over 16-year-old Roxanne Norfleet with his baton raised as she lay on the ground. Todd got that case to trial, but it ended in 1971 with a hung jury, though 11 panel members favored conviction.

Tom Todd was admitted to many bars and courts, including the Supreme Court of Louisiana, the United States Court of Military Appeals, the Supreme Court of Illinois, and the United States Supreme Court. He was a distinguished black lawyer in the U.S. attorney's office—standing tall, fighting for police brutality victims, challenging the status quo, and prosecuting police brutality cases at a time when the families of murdered Black Panther leaders Fred Hampton and Mark Clark had filed civil rights lawsuits against federal, state, and Chicago officials—a time when it was almost unheard of for a U.S. attorney's office to prosecute a police brutality case.

Todd received honorary doctorates from Grambling State University in 1987, Syracuse University in 1990, and Wilberforce University in 1993. Between 1970 and 1974, Todd taught at Northwestern University School of Law, becoming the school's first full-time black law professor. Genuinely interested in seeing young lawyers succeed, he was known to use a lot of anecdotes, legal stories, and significant cases in his teachings.

Todd was also known for helping to improve programs at historically black colleges in Louisiana, ensuring they were on par with other