

his service to our State and our country.

HONORING DR. NELLIE B. KING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. KENNEDY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Dr. Nellie B. King, a trailblazer, educator, mentor, and a dear friend whose impact on western New York will resonate for generations to come.

Dr. King exemplified what it means to dedicate one's life of service, excellence, and empowerment, particularly to the youth of western New York, but to all her fellow human beings.

Born and raised in Foxworth, Mississippi, Dr. King's journey from humble beginnings to becoming an educational pioneer is a testament to her resilience and determination.

She earned her B.A. in social studies from Alcorn Agricultural and Mechanical College, a historically Black college, followed by advanced degrees in education from Canisius College and Buffalo State College.

With over 35 years in education, Dr. King made history as the first Black superintendent of the Lackawanna City School District where she served for 9 transformative years.

Her innovative programs, including the Kids in Spotlight Program, Lackawanna Center for Family Achievement, and the District Model Aids Program set a high standard for educational excellence and student support.

Under her leadership, the district embraced groundbreaking initiatives like reduced class size for early elementary school, extended-day programs, and the GEAR UP Program, ensuring opportunities for all students to succeed.

Dr. King's dedication to education was seen on a national scale. She contributed research to the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, culminating in their report, "Gaining the Arts Advantage," which emphasized the critical role of arts in education.

Also, her service extended far beyond the classroom. Dr. King was a member of the Calvary Christian Methodist Episcopal Church where her faith guided her work and inspired those around her.

She was an active participant in organizations, such as the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, the Women's Missionary Council of the CME Church, and the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women, just to name a few.

Most recently, Dr. King served as the president and founder of Unlimited Possibilities Overcoming Poverty Ministry, which provides guidance, leadership, and financial support to women from disadvantaged backgrounds who are enrolled in college or trade school.

Dr. King's contributions did not go unnoticed. Her numerous accolades in-

clude the National Association of Counties Achievement Award, the Buffalo Ambassador Award, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for Education.

As a State Senator, I had the privilege of honoring Dr. Nellie B. King as a 2019 Woman of Distinction in the New York State Senate, a recognition that celebrated her lifelong dedication to education and bettering our community.

Dr. King's influence extended to countless students, colleagues, and leaders in our community. She was not only an educator, but also a role model, a mentor, and a friend, someone whose wisdom and compassion were a beacon of hope and inspiration.

Nellie was a loving mother to Bennie Omar King, and an adoring grandmother to Angeliya Bernice King, both of whom proudly carry on her legacy.

As we remember Dr. King, let us honor her by continuing her work, advocating for education, investing in our children, fostering innovation, and uplifting those who need it the most. Her life reminds us that one person's dedication can transform not just individuals, but entire communities.

Dr. Nellie B. King's legacy will live on in the lives she touched and the progress she championed, and it will endure as a source of inspiration for us all. I thank Dr. King for her boundless contributions, her unwavering faith, and her extraordinary vision.

We will miss her deeply. We love her, and we will carry on her lessons and her legacy for generations to come. May Dr. Nellie B. King rest in peace and power.

THANKING ROCKY DEAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. McCLINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I have been very fortunate, as have the people of my congressional district in the Gold Country of California, to have had guiding my office and shaping my decisions for many years now a truly exceptional individual, Rocky Deal.

Rocky is going to retire at the end of this month to take on a long list of pent-up retirement and family projects, and I will miss his assistance and advice greatly.

His 15 years of service leading my congressional office was actually the second chapter of his service to our country. His first chapter was 28 years of distinguished service in the United States Navy.

In those nearly three decades, he rose to the rank of captain, and for 2½ years commanded what Ronald Reagan called America's flagship, the aircraft carrier USS *Constellation*. This culminated an eventful career in the Navy and naval aviation, including command of the USS *Kalamazoo* and command of the legendary Jolly Rogers squadron of F-14 Tomcats off of the USS *Abraham Lincoln*.

During his command of the Jolly Rogers, the squadron earned the Battle E as the best fighter squadron in the Atlantic fleet. While he commanded the USS *Kalamazoo* in two Gulf deployments, it was rated the best logistical squadron in the Atlantic.

During his command of the USS *Constellation*, it won more Battle Es than any other Pacific fleet carrier during the Gulf and Indo-Pacific deployments. He concluded his career in the Navy as chief of staff to the commander of the Pacific Naval Air Forces responsible for 6 aircraft carriers, 2,000 aircraft, and 40,000 sailors.

After retiring from the Navy, Rocky returned to his hometown of Susanville, California, where he took over the family automobile dealership, first established there in 1929.

He served on the board of trustees of Lassen College, where he also taught history, and he served on the board of directors of Lassen Hospital. He also served in a wide range of civic organizations, including Rotary International, Boy Scouts of America, the chamber of commerce, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

I first met Rocky campaigning for Congress in 2008 and was very fortunate to have him join my office the next year as district director and then chief of staff.

I, my staff, my constituents, and especially our country are all extremely fortunate to have had the benefit of his good judgment, calming influence, team-building leadership, and above all, an innate ability to soothe ruffled feathers, an art that is often in very high demand in my office. Despite my best efforts over the years, he has managed to maintain good relations with our local officials, district leaders, and a diverse range of constituents.

John Boehner once told me that a good chief of staff allows a Congressman to be a Congressman, and Rocky has been successful at that throughout this decade and a half.

The progress we have made on forest management in this district that spans the western slope of the Sierra is in large part due to his constant interaction with local and Federal officials and his total devotion to the businesses of our gateway communities around Yosemite.

He cares deeply about the health and safety of the people of these mountain communities, about the struggles of local businesses, the welfare of his fellow veterans, the governance of our great Nation, and the principles of liberty that he has served in the United States Navy and the United States Congress.

He has trained a first-rate team that will carry on as he leaves congressional service to enjoy time with his wife of 51 years, Gail, his three grown children, and his eight grandchildren.

Our entire team will miss him greatly and miss the wisdom as we bid him, as Lincoln put it, an affectionate farewell.

Mr. Speaker, on my behalf and that of a grateful constituency and a grateful Nation, I thank Rocky Deal.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN LOUIS STOKES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. BROWN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of Congressman Louis Stokes as we approach what would have been his 100th birthday.

Born on February 23, 1925, in Cleveland, Ohio, Louis Stokes rose from humble beginnings to become a giant in the fight for civil rights and a champion for the underserved. Along with his brother, Cleveland Mayor Carl Stokes, he made history and made a difference for northeast Ohio.

His story is one of perseverance, service, and an unshakable belief in the promise of this Nation. A veteran of the United States Army and an attorney who argued landmark cases before the Supreme Court and a lifelong voice for the voiceless, Congressman Stokes' path was paved with courage and conviction, diligence, and determination, and a deep and abiding commitment to justice.

In 1968, he became the first Black Representative for Ohio, bringing much-needed representation to this Chamber. During his 15 terms in the House, Congressman Stokes advocated for the poor, fought for civil rights, and supported our servicemembers and ensured that communities, like my district in Cleveland, received the resources and representation they deserve.

As 1 of 13 founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus, he helped advance civil and human rights and promote economic empowerment. Today, the CBC has grown to a historic 62 members because of the work of Louis Stokes, Shirley Chisholm, and their generation.

His legacy lives on through the laws he championed and the institutions that bear his name, from the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center and the Louis Stokes Health Sciences Library at Howard University, to the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation in STEM.

Yet, what resonates most with me, and with so many in our district, is his humanity. He never forgot where he came from, nor did he ever lose sight of who he served.

Throughout his life, he carried with him a deep sense of purpose and a steadfast belief in the power of government to do good.

I am humbled to serve in the district, Ohio's 11th Congressional District, that Congressman Stokes called home.

Mr. Speaker, I hope to honor his legacy by striving to be worthy of the standard he set. As we reflect on his life, let us commit ourselves to the ideals he held dear and the people he so passionately served.

Mr. Speaker, on his centennial, I thank Congressman Stokes. His life and contributions were a gift to our district, our State, and our Nation.

HONORING THE SIX TRIPLE EIGHT

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, during Black History Month and throughout the year, it is important that we honor the legacies of those that came before us.

Today, I rise to reflect on a remarkable story that hits close to home. I recently learned that a late resident of northeast Ohio, Alma Gladys Minter, served as a tech sergeant in the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion.

Ms. Minter was part of a legacy that demonstrated the strength, resilience, and determination of African-American women. The Six Triple Eight was the first and only all-Black Women's Army Corps unit to serve overseas during World War II.

In February 1945, nearly 850 women were assigned to a vital task: ensuring letters continued to flow between soldiers on the front lines and their families back home. Their assignment was daunting, clearing a backlog of over 17 million pieces of mail in Europe.

In less than 90 days, they completed this Herculean task in half the time expected by the Army. The women of the Six Triple Eight endured freezing warehouses, relentless schedules, and the twin enemies of racism and sexism. Their motto was: "No mail, low morale," which speaks to the importance of their work.

However, in a stark injustice, their hard work was not formally recognized after the war. They didn't join in the victory day parade, and their story was not told in mainstream accounts.

However, Ms. Minter's family in Ohio knew her story, as did the families of the communities that were home to the Six Triple Eight veterans in the decades that followed.

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Mr. Speaker, I was deeply honored to vote for legislation awarding the Six Triple Eight the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor bestowed by this body. It was a long overdue recognition for their extraordinary contributions.

The Six Triple Eight Gold Medal has been minted. In the months to come, it will be formally presented, forever serving as a reminder of the heroes like Ms. Minter who stepped up when our country needed them most.

The story of Ms. Minter and the Six Triple Eight is one of service, resilience, and the pursuit of justice. Their story is part of not just Black history but American history. To Ms. Minter and all the women of the Six Triple Eight, we say a long overdue thank you. Their service will not be forgotten, and their legacy will continue to shine brightly for generations to come.

HONORING MARCH FOR LIFE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MCGUIRE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGUIRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the March for Life. Life is a miracle, and it must be protected. I have this small camouflage backpack I have carried in the general assembly for 7 years and now in Congress with a small baby sock to remind us of our most vulnerable.

This week I was proud to cosponsor the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, legislation that continues House Republicans' theme of common-sense measures for the 119th Congress. This bill requires that healthcare providers treat babies born alive following an abortion or attempted abortion with compassion and dignity.

I encourage all of my colleagues across the aisle to vote for life in favor of this legislation. As thousands of people come to our Nation's Capital and rally to support the right for life, I would like everyone to take a moment and remember the millions of unborn feet this small sock could have warmed.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH

Mr. MCGUIRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize January as Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Human trafficking is modern-day slavery. It can happen anywhere, and it can impact anyone, regardless of race, religion, or creed.

During my time in the Virginia General Assembly, I have fought on the legislative front lines to stiffen felony penalties for human traffickers. Now as a Member of Congress, I am going to continue the fight, and I encourage everyone to help raise awareness so we can save lives.

Whether it is learning more about the telltale signs of human trafficking or reaching out to your local authorities to learn about their efforts, if you see something, say something. Do something.

I encourage everyone to do their homework. Learn more about human trafficking, and join the fight to protect the vulnerable.

LOWERING COSTS FOR AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, eggs in my district are \$9.19 or, as one resident said, it is ten bucks to buy eggs, RASHIDA.

I want everyone to think about this because the Federal minimum wage is \$7.25 right now. We know grocery prices are out of control, and our government is failing to lower costs for working families. This is why my residents don't call it the minimum wage. They call it the starvation wage. It has been 16 years since Congress has raised the Federal minimum wage.

Let's get to the core value here of understanding this. A mother in our country right now can work for an hour and not be able to afford eggs. It is really unacceptable. I heard the reasons, but they still don't add up. It is