

Mr. O'Brien spent seven years initiating the successful introduction and enactment of a flood reduction bill, which now gives the MWRDGC the responsibility of dealing with flooding and stormwater issues throughout Cook County. After many setbacks, the bill was passed on November 19, 2004 thanks in part to Mr. O'Brien's relentless efforts and determination. He also instituted the (800) 332-DUMP pollution hotline number for citizens to report illegal dumping of materials into sewers and waterways, enabling the District to take immediate action against these violators.

Mr. O'Brien's strong interest in promoting fiscally sound, and taxpayer sensitive policies and programs, has led to a fiscally sound agency and to his promotion of aggressive use of District real estate holdings that are not needed for corporate use, again proving his commitment to reducing taxes that the District levies.

President O'Brien's finest and most enduring legacy will be his leadership in bringing this once-troubled agency forward to become one of the most well-respected, fiscally sound and forward thinking public agencies in the nation.

It is with great pride and respect that we salute President O'Brien for his many years of exemplary public service and dedication to cleaning up our Chicagoland waterways and Lake Michigan and we will be forever grateful for your vision and stewardship. We wish you great good luck in your years ahead.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Terrence J. O'Brien and his service to the Chicagoland area. His tireless commitment and dedication will be missed, and I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF VFW RHINE POST 2729

**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 26, 2012*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 80th anniversary of Illinois Veterans of Foreign Wars Rhine Post 2729. Their 80 years of dedication and service is certainly a milestone deserving our recognition, and I am pleased to congratulate them on this special occasion.

Rhine Post 2729's history of service began in 1932, after receiving their official Congressional Charter on October 29th. It was named "Rhine" after Mr. Leo Spsychalski, a Polish-American who founded the post and shared the nickname. Mr. Spsychalski served in the U.S. Army and participated in the Allied offensive along the German western front in World War I. Following Germany's surrender, Mr. Spsychalski was stationed as a guard along the Rhine River. After the war, he also served as the first Post Commander at Post 2729 for 6 years.

Located in Garfield Ridge, a community in Chicago, Illinois, Rhine Post 2729 has grown from its original 17 members to roughly 125 members today. For 80 years now, these men and women have served their nation with courage and integrity, not only in active military duty overseas, but also in their local community.

Rhine Post 2729 is an active organization, and they maintain a legacy of public outreach and service. Of their many activities, they regularly volunteer at the local Veterans Administration hospital and sponsor local community events.

Over the years, I have had the pleasure of building a relationship with Rhine Post 2729 and their members. It has been a privilege working with them to host a senior fair, and an honor to have spoken many times at their Memorial Day services at Resurrection Cemetery in Justice, Illinois.

Today I stand to commend Rhine Post 2729 for their contributions to community and country, and to thank their members for their sacrifices. I ask you to join me in honoring them as we congratulate them on their 80th anniversary.

HONORING NATIONAL COMMUNITY RENAISSANCE AND THE HOPE THROUGH HOUSING FOUNDATION FOR 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. GARY G. MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 26, 2012*

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate National Community Renaissance (National CORE) and the Hope Through Housing Foundation (Hope) for 20 years of dedication to community transformation through the development and management of quality, service-enriched affordable rental housing.

National CORE is a leader in the acquisition, rehabilitation, and preservation of at-risk affordable housing across the nation. National CORE works closely with state, county and local governments nationwide to identify troubled multi-housing properties that are often ignored by others in the industry and transforms them into successful community centerpieces that establish or reestablish thriving and healthy neighborhoods.

National CORE utilizes proven business models while remaining committed to a social mission, resulting in efficient and effective strategies that successfully transform communities. National CORE's model of managing a product from its inception all the way through to completion and of continued property management is unduplicated by most other affordable housing builders. This innovation and commitment to excellence has made National CORE one of the United States' largest non-profit developers of quality affordable housing for low-income families and seniors.

National CORE's commitment to its residents also sets it apart. For every community it preserves, National CORE's first consideration is always its residents. Through the Hope Through Housing Foundation, National CORE is able to provide high quality services to its residents where they live. Hope is a non-profit that works in close partnership with National CORE to create measurable positive change in the lives of children, adults and families living in these communities. Hope provides supportive services that promote upward mobility for families, and emphasizes the importance of early childhood education, youth development, senior wellness, and economic self-sufficiency. This "business mind, mission

heart" approach has resulted in an improved quality of life in communities across the nation.

National CORE and Hope continually receive accolades and awards from their industry peers for the creation and operation of outstanding living environments. Whether constructing new infill projects or preserving at-risk affordable housing, entire neighborhoods have been transformed as a result of National CORE and Hope's commitment to providing decent housing and necessary social services for its residents. Using both proven methods and best-practices, as well as developing innovative approaches, National CORE and Hope generate meaningful community change, creating new social and economic opportunities in neighborhoods previously threatened by crime, poverty, blight, and isolation. As a member of the House Financial Services Committee's Housing Subcommittee, I know of no other organizations that have had such a meaningful and lasting impact on the physical and human fabric of communities as National CORE and Hope.

Today, I thank these organizations for their dedication to transforming communities and honor their efforts as they celebrate their 20th anniversary. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in celebrating the work of National Community Renaissance and the Hope Through Housing Foundation.

HONORING HANK AND ROSE SANDERS OF ALABAMA

**HON. MELVIN L. WATT**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 26, 2012*

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, as we approach Johnson C. Smith University's homecoming and election day, I want to take this opportunity to honor Rose and Hank Sanders.

Rose Sanders is a graduate of Johnson C. Smith University, a historically Black College located in my congressional district. She is also a graduate of the Harvard University School of Law. She was Alabama's first female African American judge and was also a lead attorney in the case of Pigford v. Glickman, a class action lawsuit against the United States Department of Agriculture which documented racial discrimination in the Department of Agriculture's allocation of farm loans and assistance.

Rose Sanders' husband, Hank Sanders, also graduated from Harvard Law School. He serves in the Alabama State Senate where he has represented the 23rd State Senate District since 1983. He was Chair of the Senate Finance and Taxation Committee and is the longest serving Chair of the Legislative Budget Committee.

Today, however, I want to recognize Hank and Rose Sanders for their tireless work to organize the National Voting Rights Museum & Institute and the Bridge Crossing Jubilee. The Museum and the Jubilee were organized and started to memorialize the events of March 7, 1965 which has come to be known as "Bloody Sunday". On that date 600 citizens, including my hero and our colleague JOHN LEWIS, were brutally attacked by Alabama state troopers, as they peacefully attempted to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge seeking to provide the

right to vote to all citizens. This attack showed the world the insensitivity and brutality of opponents to voting rights and, ultimately, led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965.

Through the vision and work of Rose and Hank Sanders and their work through the Museum and Jubilee, thousands of Alabama children, residents, tourists and others from around our country and the world have learned about the courageous acts of those who marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge and others who have fought to advance the struggle to gain the civil and voting rights we now enjoy.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me and my colleague JOHN LEWIS as we commend the efforts of Rose and Hank Sanders and the important work they have done to advance justice, equality and the right to vote in the United States.

RECOGNIZING NARFE CHAPTER 1270 OF WOODBRIDGE FOR ITS EFFORTS TO FUND ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 26, 2012*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chapter 1270 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) in Woodbridge, Virginia, and to commend its members for raising \$16,552 for Alzheimer's disease research in 2011.

Founded in 1921, NARFE is the only membership organization solely dedicated to leading an advocacy effort to protect and preserve the benefits of federal workers and retirees. The national organization consists of more than 1,300 chapters nationwide with more than 300,000 members. Chapter 1270 has more than 750 members that make up an active and robust chapter in eastern Prince William County.

Alzheimer's is a progressive, degenerative disease and is the sixth leading cause of death in the U.S. Currently, 5.4 million Americans are living with the disease, and projections estimate that as many as 16 million Americans will suffer from Alzheimer's in 2050. This illness also has profound impacts on families and caregivers. More than 60% of caregivers rate the emotional stress of caregiving as very high and one-third report symptoms of depression.

Since 1985, NARFE has raised nearly \$10 million and funded 56 research projects dedicated to Alzheimer's disease research. The NARFE Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC) was recognized as the top fundraising Federation in the country at the 32nd Biennial National NARFE Convention in Sparks, Nevada, on August 26, 2012. Luther Santiful, VFC President, William Shackelford, Past VFC President and Donna Shackelford, VFC Alzheimer's Chair, accepted the honor at the opening ceremonies of the convention. During 2011, the VFC raised an incredible \$85,555.

The VFC and Chapter 1270 are national standouts in Alzheimer's fundraising. The VFC has led NARFE Federations in Alzheimer's fundraising for nine out of the last ten years. Chapter 1270 was the top fundraiser for the

VFC in each of the last ten years, and it raised the second highest amount nationwide for the second year in a row.

The Federal Government is an active partner in the battle against Alzheimer's. The National Institute on Aging is the primary Federal agency supporting and conducting Alzheimer's disease research and has worked closely with the Alzheimer's Association to identify and standardize strategies for earlier diagnosis and develop effective treatment and prevention. This is an investment that must continue; if nothing is done, the economic toll of Alzheimer's is estimated to exceed \$1 trillion in less than 40 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Woodbridge Chapter 1270 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association on this fundraising milestone. I extend my personal appreciation to the members of Chapter 1270 and to members of NARFE nationwide for their continued public service and their commitment to finding a cure for this devastating disease.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANGEL GOMEZ

**HON. SILVESTRE REYES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 26, 2012*

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Angel Gomez for selfless service to our community. He has helped thousands of people through his non-profit, Operation HOPE (Helping Other People Endure).

Selfless doesn't even begin to describe Angel Gomez.

Many lives have been touched by Angel, an appropriate name for a man with a heart the size of Texas.

A native of El Paso, Texas, he is a proud Bowie Bear Alumni and Veteran, having attended Bowie High School and later joining the United States Navy.

His real passion, other than serving his country in uniform, has always been helping others in need.

In 1995 he began volunteering his time to the community, with the support of his wife Patricia, daughter Rubi and other family members.

Seeing the growing need around him, he co-founded Operation HOPE in 2009, and he has invested his time and resources to help the El Paso community he loves so much.

Operation HOPE has allowed Angel to share his vision of community outreach with thousands of people in need. He works with community partners and volunteers who share the same values and passion for giving, and these relationships have made it possible to multiply his efforts to improve our community.

Over the past seventeen years, El Pasoans in need have received food baskets during the holidays, along with blankets, clothing, and medical supplies. Sick children who must spend much of their childhood in the hospital have received toys and gift baskets to lift their spirits. Hundreds of individuals with disabilities have received assistance with medical supplies, medications, durable medical equipment, and accessible ramps. And many families have received assistance with funeral expenses and spiritual support during their time of need.

Not only has his work brought tangible assistance to those in need, but behind each action is also something intangible, something money can't buy: hope.

On behalf of the El Paso community, I would like to thank Angel Gomez for all he has done for those in need and for the positive impact he continues to have in our community. He has restored our community's faith in the good that can be done by simply caring.

RECOGNIZING WEBB DINER FOR ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 26, 2012*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a woman-owned minority business in Tallahatchie County, Mississippi, Webb Diner. Owned and operated by Ms. Vera Williams since 1988, Webb Diner has become a true staple in the community.

Ms. Vera Williams is a native of Webb, where she has lived her entire life. Before starting her own business, Ms. Williams labored in the cotton fields of the Mississippi Delta and thereafter worked countless hours in its factories. In the late 1980s, Ms. Williams transformed Webb Diner, once known for its segregation practices, into an establishment that was open and welcoming to the public.

Despite obstacles Ms. Williams has shown continued dedication and resilience in providing the people of Tallahatchie County with nothing less than great service and Southern hospitality.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Vera Williams and Webb Diner for their contributions to the community.

RECOGNIZING THE PI LAMBDA LAMBDA CHAPTER OF THE OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 26, 2012*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. for its global recognition at the Omega Psi Phi's 78th Grand Conclave. The Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter earned the honors of International Large Chapter of the Year and the International Social Action Chapter of the Year for 2010-2011.

This is the third time the chapter has been named the International Social Action Chapter of the Year since its inception in 2004. The chapter prides itself on establishing community programs to help those in need in the Prince William County community. The chapter's dedication to public and social services can be seen through its annual Coat Drive, Step Out for Diabetes, Voter Registration, and Cancer Relay for Life programs.

Earning this distinction is a testament to the chapter's dedication to community empowerment. Members of the Pi Lambda Lambda