

with sexual assault while serving in the military. According to the Defense Department's own estimates, roughly 26,000 individuals in our military will be sexually assaulted each year. Worse yet, only a small fraction of these victims will find the courage to come forward to report these incidents, all of whom must then possibly face sizeable retaliation or anemic prosecution.

Currently, sex-related crimes are subject to a traditional military chain of command, where a commander essentially has complete authority and control over the discovery process. This creates an opportunity for military commanders to protect perpetrators and even punish victims for speaking out.

Today, as the House begins consideration of amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act, I applaud the efforts of Representative JACKIE SPEIER and other House Democrats to drastically alter the way that military sexual assaults are addressed. Representative SPEIER's amendment, which was rejected by House Republicans without debate, would have given prosecutorial discretion to the impartial Office of the Chief Prosecutor, limiting any opportunities for wrongdoing during this critical phase in the judicial process. Until consistent and effective processes are established to carefully consider any wrongdoing, members of our armed forces will continue to struggle with the shameful reality of widespread sexual assault throughout the military ranks.

Mr. Chair, mechanisms within the military structure must be implemented in force if we are to send the powerful message to these perpetrators that sexual assault will not be tolerated under any circumstances. We must stand behind our men and women in uniform, and provide them with the assurances that their voices will be heard, and that they will no longer have to live in fear of losing their livelihood in the process.

TRIBUTE TO ALFONSO "AL"
STUDESVILLE, JR. AND HIS
WIFE, JANET STUDESVILLE

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2013

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to two very special community leaders in Madison, Wisconsin.

Alfonso "Al" Studesville, Jr., and his wife, Janet Studesville, were killed in a tragic automobile accident on June 4th. The space they left behind will be incredibly difficult to fill.

Al devoted himself to community service and activism. He was larger than life—with a deep voice, rich laugh, and kind personality, Al touched the lives of many.

Born on January 9, 1946, in St. Louis, Missouri, Al made his life-long home in Madison, Wisconsin. A graduate of UW Madison, Al worked at Madison Light and Power (now known as Alliant Energy) for 18 years. He and Jan owned and operated a studio, Just Nails, and a training school, Just Nails Training Center, in Fitchburg, WI. After leaving Madison Light and Power, Al became a Student Services Career Counselor for Madison College, specializing as the Black Student Union Advisor and Minority Recruiter. Al also taught at Madison East High School for nine years.

Changing lives was a priority for Al. A member of the Jr. NAACP at the age of 12, Al participated in civil rights demonstrations through Dr. King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He continued his devotion to the African American community throughout his life. From leading what would become known as the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County to his involvement in local agencies such as the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute and the Urban League of Greater Madison, Al leaves behind a legacy of minority outreach and community involvement that cannot be overstated.

One of his crowning achievements was his critical role in founding the Madison chapter of 100 Black Men of America in 1984. Through 100 Black Men of Madison, Al helped establish an organization that area youth—especially young black men—could look to for leadership and guidance. By providing opportunities for health and wellness education, access to economic development programs, and involved mentorship, Al and the other members of 100 Black Men of Madison touched the lives of countless young men in our communities. Madison owes Al a debt of gratitude for starting this organization. His involvement proves that activism, dedication and compassion can have deep impacts in our community.

It was the combination of his inexhaustible drive to help others and his kindness, approachability and modesty that made him such an effective leader. It is one thing to lead by example alone, and quite another to take one's own life lessons and apply them directly to those in need.

Leader, mentor, confidant, father, husband; Al was all these things and more. He gave to our community, and though he never asked for anything in return, I suspect seeing the impact of his work on the lives of others served as just fulfillment.

Jan was no less involved in the community than Al. She ran their nail salon and training school that they owned jointly. She also worked as vice president for Women in Focus, a group that mentors minority students to increase literacy. The program provides \$2,000 scholarships to 13 students annually.

One of Al's favorite phrases was, "I will match energy with energy." And while the tragic loss of these two community activists is still fresh in the minds of those who knew them best, it is important to remember that Al's and Jan's energy is still here. Every person whose life they touched was enriched by that energy. And those recipients will in turn pay it forward to others. The duty falls to us now to pick up their mantle of advocacy, outreach, and kindness, and give our collective energy to those who need it most.

As a community, we will match your energy, Al and Jan. We have your memories and life's work to guide us along the way.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOHN
DINGELL

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2013

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my congratulations to Representative JOHN DINGELL for his remarkable career and service to our country.

Last week, he celebrated an accomplishment that—like Joe DiMaggio's hitting streak—is likely never to be broken. Last week, JOHN DINGELL served his 21,000 day in the House of Representatives—and he is now the longest-serving member in the history of Congress. Not one of us in the House today has served a single day without having JOHN DINGELL as a colleague.

His influence goes far beyond his longevity. When I came to Congress in 1999, my goal was to join the Energy and Commerce Committee, a committee that JOHN DINGELL chaired, shaped and made into a powerful force. He has helped to enact some of the most important laws of our time—from the Civil Rights Act to the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts to Medicare and the Affordable Care Act. He is a champion of working people and a believer in the American Dream—creating opportunity for all.

Countless members of Congress have learned valuable lessons from JOHN DINGELL. One of the most valuable lessons I learned from Congressman DINGELL was how to question witnesses appearing before the Committee. He fights tirelessly to represent his district and his constituents. He has mentored generations of high-quality and devoted staffers. He has taught us that our job is not just about legislating, but about oversight—and he is known for his skills in both areas. His efforts have helped millions and have resulted in a more effective and accountable government for the American people.

I am grateful to have JOHN DINGELL as a friend and a colleague. I congratulate him on all that he has accomplished, and I wish him and his extraordinary wife Deborah all the best as he continues to serve the 12th Congressional District of Michigan and the nation.

HONORING ANDREA RUCKER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a resourceful and ambitious woman, Ms. Andrea Rucker. She has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to serve others.

Ms. Rucker is the daughter of Myrtis Rucker of Yazoo City and Otis Rucker of Winston-Salem, N. C.

Ms. Rucker graduated from Yazoo City High School in the class of 2004 with honors and went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Special Education from Jackson State University in 2008, graduating Summa Cum Laude. After beginning her career as an Inclusion Teacher in the Yazoo County School District, Ms. Rucker earned a Master of Education in Elementary Education from Mississippi College in 2010, where she also graduated Summa Cum Laude.

Ms. Rucker is a Special Education Teacher at Bentonia Gibbs Elementary in the Yazoo County School District. She has taught for four years in the district and also served one year in the Plano Independent School District in Plano, TX. She recently earned the honor of being named Bentonia Gibbs Elementary Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Rucker is an active member of St. Stephen UMC in Yazoo City where she works as