

Department of Education. Those experiences will enable NCCU to become more connected to the Durham community, the state, and our global economy. Her vision of leveraging resources, preparing students for an ever-changing world, and guiding NCCU to the forefront of affordable and quality academics will position the University to excel for years to come.

Dr. Saunders-White understands that quality higher education has never been as important to succeeding in a global economy as it is for today and tomorrow's young minds. I congratulate Dr. Saunders on her installation. NCCU is blessed to have such an experienced, innovative, and inspirational leader as its 11th Chancellor.

LOU DURANTE

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and service of Lou Durante. Lou was a beloved member of the Bronx community and passed away this year at 85 years of age.

Lou was born in East Harlem and lived most of his life in Pelham Bay. He was immensely proud of his country and served with distinction and valor during World War II, when he was stationed in Europe. After finishing his service, Lou returned to the United States and began his career as an electrician. He also joined the Lawrence Keane Memorial Post 1458, where he was a member for 65 distinguished years, recently serving as Commander.

I will never forget the passion that Lou displayed for his fellow veterans, past and present, including his efforts to recognize deceased veterans on a monument in Keane Square Park. While visiting the monument during one of the annual ceremonies that Lou put together, I could see firsthand how lucky the Lawrence Keane Memorial Post and the Bronx were to have someone like Lou, who did so much for his community.

Lou's efforts went far beyond the monument at Keane Square Park. He also made sure current Bronx veterans and residents had a second home at the Lawrence Keane Memorial Post. Year after year, Lou worked with local leaders and elected officials to ensure the post had the funding necessary to remain a place where both veterans and community members could come together.

Mr. Speaker, Lou's commitment to both community and country was, and will continue to be, an inspiration to all of us. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Commander Lou Durante. May he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING THE 95TH BIRTHDAY
OF MR. FRED A. CURLS

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today in recognition of the 95th birthday of Mr.

Fred Curls, a pioneer for civil and political rights and a resident of the Fifth District of Missouri, which I am honored to represent. On March 31, 2014, Mr. Curls turned 95 years young. Last weekend on March 29th, he was honored in Kansas City, Missouri, by family, friends, and acquaintances.

Mr. Curls is one of the original founders of Freedom Incorporated, an African-American political organization which at one time could generate nearly 70,000 votes. Freedom Inc. was and has been a very influential political action group. The organization has been at the forefront in serving as a catalyst for change in civil rights, public accommodations, and the election of candidates at all levels of government. Freedom Inc.'s office has been visited by City Councilpersons, Jackson County Executives, Mayors, Missouri State Senators and Representatives, Governors, Congresspersons, Senators, Presidents, and those who have Presidential aspirations.

For more than fifty years, Mr. Curls has dedicated his life to the Greater Kansas City community, promoting and improving political empowerment and the civil rights of people of color. His children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren have followed in his footsteps in acknowledging their responsibility of giving back to the community. His son, State Senator Phil B. Curls, Sr. was the President of Freedom Inc. during a period when it was recognized as one of the most potent political organizations in the United States and brought about the election of the first African-American Congressman from the Fifth District of Missouri, U.S. Representative Alan Wheat.

Since the mid-1950s, Mr. Curls has been involved in real estate sales and appraisals, most notably in the African-American community of Kansas City. He fought against "restrictive covenants" whereby residential homes could not be sold in certain areas to minorities. He was part of a class action lawsuit which resulted in the United States Supreme Court outlawing such covenants.

In all of his activities, Mr. Curls demonstrates his dedication and commitment to the greater good of others. He is actively involved with his high school graduating class, the Class of 1937, which has been very close to this day. He was honored by Jackson County, Missouri, as one of its "Legacy Awardees" for its 175th anniversary as a political subdivision. He also has been honored by fellow Missourian U.S. Representative William Lacy Clay of St. Louis and myself as an awardee of the "Missouri Walk of Fame" designation, as one of the pioneers of Kansas City's African-American political struggle.

Throughout his life, he has believed in the saying "make it happen." He has put his principles into practice, and the results of his efforts have "made it happen" throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area.

For those reasons and more, it is indeed an honor and a privilege to recognize Mr. Fred Curls on his 95th birthday celebration. Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing our appreciation to Mr. Fred Curls and his endless commitment to serving the residents of Kansas City and the State of Missouri. Whatever we, as African-Americans, may attain in the political arena, Fred Curls and those who labored to act on our behalf as political pioneers have helped to change the course of history. He is a true role model not just to the African-American community in Missouri, but to the entire community at large.

IN DEFENSE OF AMERICA'S COAL
MINERS ON THE ANNIVERSARY
OF THE UBB DISASTER

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 4, 2014

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today, on the eve of the 4th Anniversary of the tragic explosion at the Upper Big Branch Mine in Raleigh County, West Virginia—a disaster that took the lives of 29 miners. I take this opportunity to remind my colleagues and all Americans of that terrible day, of the good men we lost far too young, of those injured, of the families that still mourn and the communities that were forever altered.

I come here, also, to remind my colleagues that the Upper Big Branch miners are still owed our full energies and every effort to ensure that such a tragedy will never occur again.

And I take this time to caution my colleagues—and the public—not to be duped by the self-serving sack of utter baloney being circulated on the internet. The so-called documentary "Never Again" is nothing more than a piece of carefully crafted fiction—a transparent attempt to white wash history and revise reality.

Four separate studies found that Massey Energy, with Don Blankenship at the helm, created a callous corporate culture in which production was valued over safety, in which profit was valued over people. The families of the victims of UBB are rightly livid over the release of this fantasy film, and I stand with them, sharing their complete disdain.

Failing to legislate to close safety loopholes exploited by Massey is akin to condoning that corrupt culture and its fatal results. And Mr. Blankenship is not alone in his dangerous, fantasy view of mine safety. There are deep-pocketed individuals who have funded studies which actually suggest that mine safety rules are un-needed. Nothing could be further from the truth and it is immoral that the Congress has not acted to protect coal miners further.

So many of my colleagues in this body are defenders against what we sagely see as a war on coal. It is common these days for us to come to this floor, red-faced with anger to shout about the unfair treatment of coal by an overzealous and ideological EPA. We are disgusted and rightly so.

But I believe that to be a champion for coal, one has to be a champion for the coal miner.

Defense of the coal miner cannot stop at the mouth of the mine. It must follow him into the mine, ensuring that working conditions are as safe and healthy as we possibly can make them.

Defense of the coal miner must follow after a miner leaves the mine, so that the promises of retirement and health benefits made to miners and their families are honored. And so that the opportunities every American is entitled to are made available to every coal miner as well.

This Congress, however, has yet to take up a package of reforms I worked on with the late great Senator Robert C. Byrd—reforms that we know are necessary to save lives in the wake of the UBB tragedy. It has, frustratingly, yet to act on legislation to protect the health and retirement security of miners.