

in Management and Leadership from the NeighborWorks Training Institute of America in Washington, DC.

Mrs. George is an important advocate for rural communities throughout the state. She administers and manages over 40 programs which include: housing; business and cooperative programs; community programs; and community facilities which are designed to improve the quality of life in rural America. Rural Development is an agency that the Obama Administration wants to see in the forefront of efforts to promote renewable energy and conservation of natural resources while ensuring a safe, sustainable, nutritious food supply through the Agency's cooperatives for present and future users.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Trina George, a director, leader and advocate, who is improving the quality of life for rural America.

CELEBRATING EDITH LEDERBERG

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2014

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Edith Lederberg, who turns 85 years old in August. Edith is a vibrant member of our community, and a true friend and advocate to senior citizens locally, statewide, and across the country. Edith has worked for the Aging and Disability Resource Center for 37 years. She currently serves as Executive Director, a position she has held since 1986. As Executive Director, she plans, coordinates, and directs senior programming and advocates on behalf of seniors at the local, state, and national level. She also raises financial resources to support programs for Older Americans residing in Broward County.

Ms. Lederberg has been recognized for her dedication several times over the course of her successful career, including her selection as a Media Representative and then as a Regular Delegate to the White House Conference on Aging. She served as President of the Florida Association of Area Agencies on Aging, and as Vice Chair of Broward's Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board for almost 18 years. She has been elected to the Broward Women's Hall of Fame and the Broward Senior Hall of Fame.

These are just a few from her long list of accomplishments. Ms. Lederberg was born in Freeport, New York and she has three children and four grandchildren. She is a truly exceptional woman and I know I join with her friends and family in celebrating her birthday. I wish her good health and continued success in the coming year.

RECOGNIZING EDMUND COOK

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2014

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Mr. Edmund Cook for his many years of service to American Legion Post 506, and to veterans in Westchester County, New York.

Born in Lithuania in 1945, Edmund Cook was separated from his family in the closing days of World War II. After being found and fed by American soldiers, he was put in a "displaced persons (DP)" Red Cross camp for five years until he was adopted by an American family. The kindness shown to him by those American soldiers would have a lasting impact on Mr. Cook, and would lead to a life-long career of helping veterans.

After receiving a masters degree from Fordham University, Edmund joined the Veterans Administration (VA) at the Montrose, New York, VA Hospital facility as a Clinical Social Worker. In 1991, he was transferred to the White Plains, New York, Veterans Center to help soldiers suffering from PTSD in the aftermath of the Iraq War. He soon started treating veterans from all wars, and has worked tirelessly to ensure they all receive the care they need. He would even go to homeless shelters to seek out veterans in need of medical treatment, and would collect clothes to give veterans.

For the past 30 years, Mr. Cook has chaired the Boys State Program for Ossining Post 506 American Legion. This program offers high school boys the opportunity to learn how our government works, from the local and state level to the Federal Government. It is an important learning experience for young men who might one day seek opportunities in government work. Mr. Cook has infused his passion for helping others into this program, and he continues to inspire young men every year.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Edmund Cook of Ossining, NY, for his lifetime of service to the veterans and youth of my district. His work has inspired others to help those in need, and he has truly lived up to the Veterans Administration motto, "to care for him who shall have borne the battle." I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring his tremendous accomplishments.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MRS. MARTHA ANN (GIBBS) MELTON ON THE OCCASION OF HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2014

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to congratulate Mrs. Martha Ann (Gibbs) Melton, who was born on August 7, 1914, to Charles and Chanie Gibbs. She is the youngest and only daughter of three siblings. Her two older brothers, Scott and Jim, have both made their transitions. After becoming a grandmother, Martha has been affectionately addressed as Granny by all who know and love her. She is indeed a very proud grandmother with 32 grandchildren and a host of great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

Martha Ann had a very interesting childhood. Her father, Charles Gibbs (Poppa) was one of 12 siblings born to Henry and Ann (Wright) Gibbs. Grandpa Henry Gibbs was a free slave in Clay County, West Point, Mississippi. Because he was a man of many trades—such as a farmer, shoe maker, textile worker, blacksmith, cotton gin operator, and molasses mill operator—Grandpa Henry's 12

children also followed in his path. His freedom came with a 225-acre land grant from the Cottrell Plantation owner, which was eventually inherited by his children and passed down through generations to living descendants. The young Poppa Charles Gibbs was a very hardworking farmer and shoemaker. His 3 children also had to work hard. Although there was always work to do, the kids did find time to play. Some of Granny's favorite games were baseball, hop scotch, and jump rope. Her recollection of a normal day was being up at day break, attending the one room Pooles' school house, and then working in the cotton fields until sundown where she was either chopping cotton or picking up 200 pounds of cotton a day during harvest. She took what she learned from Pooles' school to later earn a GED. Granny shared one of her favorite pastimes which was sitting and watching Poppa operate his shoe lasting machines to make shoes. She was always amazed how the machine would use a needle to punch and sew shoes. Not only did Poppa make shoes, but he also removed soles from old shoes and patched the soles to make them look new.

As tradition goes, the expectation is that, as the only daughter in the household, Granny would have a room with some special frills or girly touches. Quite the opposite, she remembers having the basics—a small bed, a trunk and a chifferobe, and she was quite content with her provisions. In addition, Sundays were special in the Gibbs family. Everyone got up early and put on their best attire for a day of worship at Primitive Baptist Church. Granny later became a member of Union Star Baptist Church (West Point) where she sang in the choir. Granny was also a member of the Prince Hall Masons, Heroines of Jericho Lounge, Court #324.

As a young woman, Martha Ann was a mother to 5 children, the late Chanie (Gibbs) Randle, Sallie (Collins) Sellars, Isaac Melton, Jr., Amos Melton, and Clarence Melton. Her husbands from previous marriages were the late Willie James Collins and the late Isaac Melton, Sr. She held a variety of jobs while living in West Point, ranging from day work at various homes to Bryan Bros. Packing Company, Swift and Company, working as a dry cleaning attendant, and later as a salesperson for American Burial Insurance Company.

In her senior years, Granny became ill and moved to Chicago to be cared for by her daughter, Sallie. Her church, Union Star Baptist, honored her transition with a letter for membership to Greater Garfield Baptist Church (Chicago) under the pastorship of Reverend George Henderson, where she serves faithfully and is the senior member of the Mother's Board. Granny occasionally breaks out in song during service, and is welcomed by Pastor Henderson. She affirms that her all-time favorite hymn is "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say." Even though Granny has reached this historical milestone, she continues to be one of the feistiest elders you will ever encounter. She has been there and done that and knows more than any of us will ever be able to profess . . . just ask her.

I take this opportunity to congratulate Mrs. Melton as she reaches a milestone of 100 years and commend her and her family for the great legacy of history and the contributions they have made to human kind.