

Register of Historic Places. Legend indicates that the founders of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, home of the Indianapolis 500, met at the club to discuss construction of the famed track. It also served as host to discussions that eventually brought the NFL's Colts to Indianapolis.

The Columbia Club has hosted every Republican President since Benjamin Harrison while in office or as a candidate. Thousands of business leaders and politicians have been members of the Club as have famous Hoosiers like musician Hoagy Carmichael and Impressionist T.C. Steele. Each year the Club holds its annual Beefsteak Dinner, of which I had the honor to keynote on October 7, of this year.

Congratulations to the Columbia Club and all of its current and former members for the 125 years of excellence in our Indianapolis community.

HONORING MR. ALBERT A. CURTIS, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man of noble character and determination, Mr. Albert A. Curtis, Jr. of Tallahatchie County. He is the son of Lucille and Albert Curtis, Sr.

As a child: Like his father, Albert A. Curtis, Sr., he was a shrewd manager of a few assets. But here is how he got started. This was during a time when racism was considered acceptable. Albert, Sr. saw no racism in money. And as a little boy Albert, Jr. learned that as he watched his father conduct business with Blacks, Whites and everyone else. Albert Sr. had several mantras his son would often hear him say like, "A lil negotiation don't hurt, but don't compromise your beliefs and dignity." or "A bicycle of your own is better than someone else's Cadillac . . . always work hard cause nobody is going to give you anything" and "Sometimes you got to lose to win."

Time to grow-up: Albert, Jr.'s mother, Lucille died suddenly when he was eight (8) years old. But because of his strong belief in family and deep love for his wife, Albert, Sr. felt that was all gone when she died. He was broken hearted and turned to alcohol to escape the reality of that inevitable change. Albert, Jr. saw his father lose his will to live and began losing the businesses he had worked so hard to build. Those businesses also provided the financial support for the family. The family began moving around from place to place until Mattie Curtis took the family in, which is Albert Jr.'s grandmother. The family began to hire out, young Albert, Jr. to work on other farms for money and to work odd jobs. Unfortunately, young Albert remembers how his father would take the money from him to buy alcohol instead of support the family. Rather than defy his father in any way, he simply quit school to increase his work hours, believing he could continue giving his father the "little" money and the extra money he would make by increasing his hours, he thought some money would go to the family. This was a life changing decision for a young boy—who didn't truly understand.

His schoolmates started seeing him around and they began to make fun of Albert, Jr. with words like "He done quit school and ain't gon' mount to nothin' . . . plus he smells like horses and mules." Well, Albert just kept on because his father's words and work ethics were deep inside of him, "Never give up and make people's ideas of you a lie!" As he grew older, people began to notice him never wavering, never quitting, steadfast, and focused, but they just didn't see anything—material that is.

Time to start a family: In 1964, Albert, Jr. met and married Alma "Emma" Jean Blackburn. She was his soul-mate and helpmate—heaven sent. She was strong in areas he was weak. He was hard working and could make money while she was strong minded and book smart (as they called it). Emma managed the books, opened up bank accounts, paid the bills . . . she took care of the family business. Soon the couple had acquired enough money and assets that they were able to purchase their own home and leave Grandma Curtis' home.

Albert, Jr. then with the support of this wife, set out to re-acquire all the land and holding his father had lost. He began buying land back from his family members (e.g., aunts and uncles and anyone who had his daddy's land). He was the only one who had the money to do this. Eventually Albert, Jr. was able to buy back all the property and land his father had owned but two (2) pieces of property.—Now, it's not known of anyone else accomplishing this, but Albert deserves being recognized and applauded.

But wait, this story is not over . . . Remember, Albert, Jr. was never wavering, never quitting, always steadfast and focused, and didn't understand because they just didn't see anything—material that is. Well, by now he managed to acquire a wife, home of his own, money in the bank, all his daddy's previously owned property (but 2 pieces) and now property of his own. Albert continued until he was able to acquire 52 residential properties, commercial properties, more acres of land, several types of businesses of his own (e.g., plumbing, and financing for other small business owners) and work a full-time job for the City of Public Works in the community he lived.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the legacy of Mr. Albert A. Curtis, Jr. of Tallahatchie County, from the Second Congressional District of Mississippi.

IN RECOGNITION OF BARBRA SIPERSTEIN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Barbra "Babs" Siperstein as she is honored with the Stonewall Legacy Award by The Pride Network at their New Jersey Leadership Awards Dinner. It is truly a fitting tribute to recognize Ms. Siperstein as we celebrate LGBT History Month as she has played such a vital role in the LGBT movement.

Born Barry Siperstein, Barbra Siperstein acknowledged her true identity when she was nearly 50 years old. In 2007, she legally changed her name and the following year

changed her Hebrew name to Baila Chaya in a ceremony at her synagogue, Congregation Beth Mordecai in Perth Amboy.

Through her own journey, Ms. Siperstein became a pioneer of transgender equality. She is a political activist and a staunch advocate for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) causes. In 2009 she became the first openly transgender member confirmed to the Democratic National Committee (DNC). Additionally, she was appointed to the New Jersey Civil Union Review Commission and served as Vice Chair of Garden State Equality. She has also been a member of the DNC's executive committee, deputy vice chair of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee and president of the New Jersey Stonewall Democrats.

Ms. Siperstein was married for 34 years to the late Carol Siperstein, who stayed by her side until she lost a sudden battle with cancer in 2001. Together, they had a daughter and two sons. In addition to her activism, Barbra is a United States Army Veteran and a small-business owner.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Barbra Siperstein on receiving the prestigious Stonewall Legacy Award and thanking her for her continuous efforts on behalf of the LGBT community.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF EDUARDO POSADA

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Eduardo Posada. Born in Puerto Rico on February 8, 1929, his father was a Colombian native and his mother was Puerto Rican. He spent his early years in New York City until 1935, when his family moved back to Puerto Rico. Except for two brief stints back in New York, Ed stayed in Puerto Rico where he obtained his BA from the Polytechnic Institute of Puerto Rico (now Universidad Interamericana de Puerto Rico) in 1949.

Ed worked for two years in Puerto Rico as a secondary school teacher. He married Urania Feliciano and had a son, Luis. The family then moved to New York, where Ed joined the U.S. Air Force. While serving at Governor's Island, New York, Ed and his wife had a second son, Danny. In June, 1955 Ed was separated from the Air Force as a sergeant and assigned to the U.S. Air Force Reserves. In 1956, he was found unfit for active duty and discharged from the service due to disabilities.

Ed went to work as a secondary school teacher and completed his MA at Hunter College of the City University of New York in 1959. Ed eventually became Assistant Dean for Boys at Theodore Roosevelt High School.

The family next moved to Miami where Ed continued to teach until 1987, when he retired. While in Miami, he had the honor of being part of the newly formed United Teachers of Dade and served as vice president for the group. In 1987, Ed retired from teaching and moved to Orlando with his wife.

Ed has since been an active member of the American Legion, Korean War Veterans, and