

Born and raised in Lafayette, Louisiana, Dr. Francis, the son of a barber and a homemaker, first set foot on the campus of Xavier University as a student in 1948 and immediately stood out among his peers as a leader in all areas of academic excellence. Fore-shadowing the legacy he would later build on this very campus, his fellow classmates elected him class president each year of his undergraduate study and student body president his senior year. When he graduated with honors in 1952, Dr. Francis left Xavier knowing that he would return someday.

Later that year, Dr. Francis became the first African American to attend Loyola Law School in New Orleans. After graduating in 1955, he served our country with honor and distinction in the U.S. Army's Third Armored Division. After his honorable discharge, Dr. Francis worked on special assignment with the U.S. Attorney General to help desegregate federal agencies.

Following his completion of this assignment, Dr. Francis found himself at a crossroads. He had a promising legal career ahead of him yet he yearned to be of service in higher education. Choosing the latter, where he thought his talents could be of greater use, Dr. Francis returned to his alma mater, becoming dean of men in 1957. Rising quickly through the ranks, he became the first African American and first layman to serve as president of Xavier University in 1968.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Francis has revolutionized Xavier University in countless ways during his 47-year tenure as president. Under his leadership, the university's enrollment has more than doubled, its endowment has grown eight-fold, and its campus has expanded from only five buildings to sixteen buildings on more than sixty acres.

These changes are also reflected in the young leaders and model graduates that Xavier continues to produce. Xavier University is recognized as the leading producer of African American undergraduates who go on to complete medical school and one of the top three producers of African American Doctor of Pharmacy degree recipients. Xavier ranks first nationally in the number of African American students earning undergraduate degrees in biology and life sciences, chemistry, physics, and pharmacy.

Dr. Francis' sphere of influence has not been confined to the campus limits of Xavier University. A nationally recognized figure, Dr. Francis has served in advisory roles to eight U.S. presidents on education and civil rights issues. He has also served on 54 boards and commissions. He has received 42 honorary degrees from other universities and numerous awards and commendations in recognition of his leadership in higher education as well as his selfless service to his community and to our nation. In 2006, then-President George W. Bush honored Dr. Francis with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Norman C. Francis for his significant contributions to our nation and for his 47 outstanding years as President of Xavier University of Louisiana. His visionary leadership has helped transform this university for the better to provide students with a fulfilling college experience, a quality education focusing on academic excellence, and the necessary tools with which to live successful and productive lives.

## HONORING CHIEF THOMAS LAWS

### HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Thomas Laws, the Fire Chief of Granite Falls, North Carolina. On May 1, 2015, Chief Laws will retire after thirty-two years of successful, dedicated service.

Chief Laws began his service in Granite Falls in 1982 as a firefighter. Just three years later, he was promoted to Chief. During his tenure, Chief Laws maintained a standard of excellence in firefighting equipment, tactics, and training. He was also instrumental in obtaining several program grants that have made the department what it is today. Thanks in large part to Chief Laws' dedication, the local fire department in Granite Falls consistently handled emergencies in a timely and efficient manner.

The exemplary leadership of Chief Laws is something that all of us can admire and respect. As such, I am proud to honor Fire Chief Thomas Laws for his faithful service to the people of Granite Falls and congratulate him on his retirement.

## CELEBRATING ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY, INC. GREAT LAKES REGION

### HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate 95 years of service by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority and to wish them well as they begin their 81st Annual Great Lakes Regional Leadership Conference tomorrow in Rosemont, Illinois.

The conference, led by Great Lakes Regional Director Michelle Porter Norman, will capture the essence of all that Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated embodies . . . to be "A Community Conscious, Action Oriented Organization". Their National Programs, including Z-HOPE, Stork's Nest and Elder Care, provide necessary assistance to members of our communities across the globe, to address societal ills, poverty, and health concerns of the day. It is expected to draw more than 700 members from across seven states—Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority was founded in 1920 at Howard University in Washington, DC, in the belief that the social nature of Sorority life should not overshadow the real mission of progressive organizations. The international organization's more than 100,000 initiated members and affiliates have given millions of volunteer hours to educate the public, provide scholarships, support organized charities and promote legislation for social and civic change. Zeta Phi Beta has more than 800 chapters in the United States, Japan, Germany, England, Belgium, the Republic of Korea, the Caribbean and most recently Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

I send a sincere "thank you" to Zeta Phi Beta for your dedication to promoting aca-

demically excellence and instilling in your members a lifelong commitment to service.

## TRIBUTE TO DR. SAUNDRA H. GLOVER

### HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2015*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Sandra H. Glover on the occasion of her retirement from the University of South Carolina. Serving as Associate Dean for Health Disparities and Social Justice of the Arnold School of Public Health and Director of the Institute for Partnerships to Eliminate Health Disparities (IPEHD), Dr. Glover has devoted her life to fighting inequity in health status and health care.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. famously said at the 1966 National Convention of the Medical Committee for Human Rights: "Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane." I profoundly agree with that view. While many bemoan the poor health status of many Americans and their lack of access to care, Dr. Glover spent decades working to correct this shocking and inhumane injustice.

In her fight to eliminate health disparities, Dr. Glover has brought to bear a plethora of weapons. She has conducted research, winning millions of dollars in grants and leading efforts to create the Health Disparities Research Network. She has been a prolific author, publishing dozens of articles in academic journals. She has been an educator, working to address the dearth of minority public health professionals and earning the South Carolina Rural Health Association's Excellence in Education Award. She has been a community leader, serving on the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) commissioner's health disparities advisory board and partnering with DHEC's Office of Minority Health on a number of statewide initiatives. In 2010, she was appointed to the Executive Committee of the Congressional Black Caucus Institute 21st Century Council, leading the health policy subcommittee.

In all of these endeavors, Dr. Glover has tackled the complicated problem of health disparities from a wide array of angles. Her publications have covered topics as diverse as HIV, mental health, diabetes, asthma, access to care, and health services delivery. IPEHD, under her directorship, has been engaged in research and community activities that address HIV, cervical cancer, head and neck cancers, prostate cancer, obesity, mental health, autoimmune diseases, musculoskeletal injuries, and environmental health. In all of her work, Dr. Glover has focused on identifying and developing partnerships, engaging vulnerable and underserved communities in research, prevention and intervention activities, and training underrepresented minorities in biomedical and behavioral research.

I am particularly grateful for Dr. Glover's role in organizing the James E. Clyburn Health Disparities Lecture Series. She has taken the lead in developing this annual lecture series to bring together academicians, clinicians, and community partners to share research and best practices on promoting health equity.