

CELEBRATING THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MENDHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 2015*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 110th Anniversary of the Mendham Fire Department located in the Borough of Mendham in Morris County, New Jersey.

The Mendham Fire Department was established on June 20, 1905. The first officers of the department were elected at the founding meeting. The President was Edward S.P. Bretherton, Secretary J. Smith Gunther, Treasurer Charles P. Bretherton, and Chief John M. Hoffman. The original firehouse was completed in December 1906 with \$885 raised by the residents. In 1913 the Mendham Independent Hook, Ladder, and Hose Company No. 1 was formed. One year later in 1904 the First Aid Squad came into existence with twelve men volunteers. In the past century, the department has grown and continued to provide the community with exemplary service.

On September 11, 2001 the fire department responded to terrorist attacks in New York. Their First Aid Squad was also sent to the World Trade Center to assist the victims at the site of the tragedy.

In 2014, the department responded to 250 calls with an average response time of seven minutes and twenty-two seconds. This is about two minutes less than the national average for all volunteer fire organizations. The department is not just responsible for responding to emergency calls. They are actively involved in just about every facet of the Mendham community and provide mutual aid to neighboring towns.

Each year the department continues to grow their junior membership. They provide opportunities for young men and women aged sixteen to eighteen, who participate in various firefighting and first aid activities. The makeup of the junior membership represents the best and brightest of Mendham. They carry on to college and beyond the confidence and skills that are instilled in them while working at the fire department.

The Mendham Fire Department has been able to maintain and grow a wonderful relationship of trust and respect with Mendham residents. For this 110th Anniversary the department is planning a number of events and activities to celebrate their achievements.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking and recognizing the Mendham Fire Department for their 110 years of dedicated service to the community.

HONORING TEMPLE, TX POLICE  
CHIEF GARY SMITH

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 2015*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of Temple, TX Police Chief Gary Smith. With his retirement approaching, he will soon close out

37 years of incredible service to his community and begin the next chapter of his life.

A native son of Temple, Smith joined the force right out of high school and quickly rose through the ranks, showcasing his leadership and expertise at every step along the way. Recognition of his excellence included his being named Rookie of the Year and twice receiving the prestigious Officer of the Year award. Community leaders took notice of his great work and Smith was honored by the Temple City Council on three separate occasions for his stellar leadership and commitment to duty.

Chief Smith led his department with dedication, honesty, and integrity. Over the decades, Smith has seen his beloved police department grow from a small town force into a skilled and mobile law enforcement agency capable of providing safety to this rapidly growing city. Due in large part to his leadership, Temple is now one of the safest cities in the country. Locals could always sleep well knowing their safety was Smith's first priority.

As a former judge, I know firsthand the essential role police officers play in maintaining law and order and the risks they face every time they report for duty. These brave men and women awake each day uncertain of what dangers await. Yet they carry on, strengthened by their resolve to protect and serve. Police officers, be they big city beat cops or small town sheriffs, help preserve our way of life and are the shields that guard us from those lost souls who wish harm to others.

Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have made a difference in the world; Chief Gary Smith doesn't have that problem. I salute his extraordinary career and join the grateful citizens of Temple, TX in wishing him only the best in the years ahead.

CELEBRATING THE 135TH ANNIVERSARY OF MAINE'S FRIENDSHIP SLOOP

**HON. CHELLIE PINGREE**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 2015*

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 135th anniversary of the Friendship Sloop, a style of sailing vessel that stands as an icon of Maine's maritime heritage.

Friendship Sloops were developed over a century ago in Maine's Muscongus Bay as fishing and lobstering boats. Their beautiful lines served an important purpose. The shape of the hull provided great stability and lobstermen could sail the boats by themselves while laying and checking their traps by hand. Many local craftsmen were known for building them, but none more than Wilbur Morse of Friendship, Maine. Morse's shop turned out so many of the boats that they eventually became known by the name of his hometown.

With the advent of modern-day engines in the 20th century, the Friendship Sloop fell out of favor as a fishing vessel. But it wasn't long before its beauty and functionality made it a popular design for recreational sailboats and yachts. Its distinctive shape lives on to this day with the help of many enthusiasts who carry on its legacy. Since 1961, the Friendship Sloop Society has hosted an annual regatta and connected a community of people who sail, rebuild, and appreciate these boats.

Much has changed since 1880, but life on the Maine coast retains many connections to those earlier days. Hard-working individuals still make their living on the water. Tight-knit communities still pull together for each other. And Friendship Sloops still gracefully ply the waters, their design largely unchanged in 135 years. Some things just cannot be improved upon.

My appreciation goes to all those who keep the tradition of the Friendship Sloop alive. It gives me great pleasure to celebrate its 135th anniversary.

OMAR RODAS

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 2015*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, millions of American teenagers walked across the stage in their cap and gown and received their diploma after four years of hard work. Their high school careers will officially come to an end and the next chapter will soon take off. High School Graduation is an exciting time meant for celebration with friends and family. But one Texas student did not get to cross the stage in his green cap and gown to receive his high school diploma.

Omar Rodas from Houston, Texas was an 18 year old student at Klein Forest High School.

He was a tenacious student. Constantly, he put in the extra effort to make his dream of graduation a reality. He stayed for after school hours and worked overtime to ensure that he would graduate. He spent his extra time bus-ing tables at a local restaurant, Babins.

At first he did not think that he would be able to graduate, but Omar pulled it off. He worked tirelessly for that cap and gown and to make sure he was part of the big day in June. His friends said that he was so excited that the hours of extra time and effort made his dream of graduating a reality.

Omar was on his way to his graduation ceremony early Saturday morning on June 6, 2015 with his good friend, who agreed to drive him that morning to ensure that he would make it to the ceremony on time. On the Houston highway, he was suddenly killed in a violent car accident involving two other cars. Omar was already wearing his cap and gown when rescue crews pulled him out of the wreck.

Initial reports have suggested that Omar was driving on the freeway around 7 a.m. when he veered out of his lane and hit the back of a dump truck and SUV then veered in front of the truck and was struck.

Omar was pronounced dead at the scene.

Friends and family at the graduation ceremony were surprised and confused when Omar's name was called and he did not cross the stage.

No one knew that a terrible highway accident took the life of the bright student.

A candle vigil was held for Omar on June 7th at Klein Forest High School and student, parents, and friends are helping the family by setting up a GoFund account in order to help them raise money for the funeral so that the family may grieve properly without the worry of money. Many who attended the vigil wore

Red, Omar's favorite color, and many of the Class of 2015 students wore their graduation caps in honor of him.

Omar is survived by his parents, an older sister who previously graduated from Klein Forest High School and a younger brother. He had plans to continue working and hopefully attend Lone Star College after graduation.

Even though Omar did not get to hear his name called and physically walk the stage to take his diploma, the community has not stopped cheering for him.

Omar's memory will live on through his family, friends and classmates in Houston. He will always be a great example of how no matter the circumstances, hard work will always pay off.

Our prayers are with the Rodas family and all of Omar's friends.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE HISTORIC DOWNTOWN SQUARE AND PIONEER PARK

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 2015*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recent improvements made to the Historic Downtown Square and Pioneer Park of Carrollton, Texas. Downtown Carrollton has been an iconic part of northern Texas since the early 1800's.

These improvements will give people improved space and new scenery to visit and enjoy leisurely time with friends and family. It is important to keep our parks and recreational areas updated to continue and expand their vital role in the community. These renovations will reinvigorate the Historic Downtown Square as well as Pioneer Park and make them alluring destinations for years to come.

There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on June 27th to officially unveil the new changes. City officials and local leaders will be in attendance to speak about the hard work and effort put into the new developments. I encourage everyone to attend and show support for the time and dedication put into this project. I'm thankful for the people of the 24th district of Texas who strive to make our home a more habitable and enjoyable place.

At the unveiling will be a concert featuring local artists as well as an outdoor movie with the director's wife present to introduce the film. It is this strong sense of community that will serve the people of Carrollton and everyone who visits the historic downtown.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the ever improved Historic Downtown Square and Pioneer Park. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating such an accomplishment.

IN HONOR OF MR. FRANKLIN DOUGLASS

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 2015*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding commu-

nity leader, devoted public servant, and loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend, Mr. Franklin Douglass. A funeral service to celebrate Frank's life will be held on Tuesday, June 30, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia, where he had served as a deacon.

Franklin Douglass was born in Belle Mona, Alabama on July 20, 1936, the third oldest of ten brothers and four sisters. The family made a living by tenant farming in rural Limestone County, Alabama. He enrolled in Tuskegee Institute, joined ROTC, and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Physical Education, Health, and Recreation in 1956. Over the next 30 years, his pursuit of personal growth earned him graduate degrees in Personnel Management and Education Supervision and Administration. His passion for education was infectious, and as an educator Frank inspired thousands of students to seek knowledge and growth.

Frank served our nation honorably as an officer in the United States Army from 1959 until 1964, when he was honorably discharged. He then accepted his first teaching post at Marshall Junior High School. After only a year of teaching, Frank was appointed acting principal of Marshall Junior High before becoming a Media Specialist for the Muscogee County School District. His career as an educator in the Columbus area took Frank to several schools and classrooms before his appointment as principal of William H. Spencer High School at the age of 40 in 1976. After a dozen years of serving as principal, Frank became Director of Muscogee County Student Services in 1988, a post he held until his retirement in 1990.

Frank's passion for improving the conditions of those in the Columbus area extended beyond the classroom. As Commissioner and Vice Chairman of the Columbus Housing Authority, Frank fought for three decades to keep living conditions affordable for everyone in his community. An active member of Kiwanis Club, Social-Civic 25 Club, 837 Club, Phi Delta Kappa, and Omega Psi Phi, Frank utilized his smile and amiable humor to advance the interests of Columbus natives. Additionally, as a member of the Georgia Association of Educational Leaders and the Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, Frank built ties with educational leaders around the state of Georgia and the southeastern United States.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that I will always remember about Franklin Douglass is his steadfast commitment to his family, as well as his community. As father to Franklin Karl Douglass and grandfather to Temple Douglass, he was an inspiration to extended family and countless friends. Moreover, as a husband, there was no limit to his love of his wonderful wife of nearly 55 years, Merrian.

A dear friend to me for more than thirty years, Frank was soft spoken, quiet, and thoughtful. He was one of the cooler heads in dealing with community issues and problems. His demeanor and intuitiveness helped him get things done. We are so blessed that Frank passed this way and did so much for so many for so long.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and my wife, Vivian, in paying tribute to Franklin Douglass for his servant leadership and his deep commitment to his family, his community, and his country. We extend our deepest

sympathies to the Douglass family and friends during this very difficult time. May they be consoled and comforted by their abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

HONORING DEVON DOWLER OF THE OWENSVILLE DUTCHMEN

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 2015*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Devon Dowler of the Owensville Dutchmen for his first place win in the 3200 Meter Hurdles at the 2015 Class 3 Track and Field State Championship.

Devon and his coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Devon Dowler of the Owensville Dutchmen for a job well done.

H.R. 2898—WESTERN WATER AND FOOD SECURITY ACT OF 2015

**HON. DOUG LAMALFA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 2015*

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, today, the California Republican Delegation again took action to address our state's water supply crisis, introducing balanced legislation improving water access for Californians around the state by using improved science to time water deliveries, preserve water rights and move forward on new surface storage facilities.

The bill protects the most fundamental water rights of all, area of origin rights, ensuring that Northern Californians who live where our state's water supply originates have access to it.

It uses modern science to improve the timing of water deliveries, allowing the storage of more water during winter storms which makes it available for dry periods like now.

It addresses invasive species that are negatively impacting salmon populations, and allows local water districts to undertake their own habitat improvement projects.

Finally, California's voters have spoken clearly in support of investment in new surface storage projects, and this measure fulfills that promise by advancing projects that would generate over one million acre-feet of water, enough for eight million Californians.

We'll continue to refine this proposal as it moves through the process, but I am proud to cosponsor a bill that addresses both short- and long-term needs of all Californians and support continued economic growth.

TRIBUTE TO PAIGE SEISER

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 25, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Paige