

Seiser from Waukee High School for winning the Class 2A Co-ed Golf Doubles title along with her partner, Parker Howe. I would like to also recognize Paige Seiser for taking home the Class 5A Girls Golf individual title.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by these students demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent them and their families in the United States Congress. I know all of my colleagues in the House join me in congratulating Paige and Parker on competing in this rigorous competition and wishing continued success in their education and high school golf career.

HONORING THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY
OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN
REVOLUTION

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks today in honor of the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, which will be celebrating its 125th anniversary on July 7.

Sadly, too often it seems as if lessons from history are overlooked or forgotten. But in Virginia, we are proud of our history, of our love of freedom, and of our dedication to independence. I commend the important efforts of the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution to keep in our hearts and minds American patriotism and the memory of our Revolutionary War heritage.

As a student of history myself, I could spend hours discussing not only the various events preceding and succeeding our nation's fight for independence, but also the crucial role by Virginians. Countless patriots, battles, and events from this pivotal period in our nation's history ought to be commemorated and remembered, battles including but not limited to the Battle of Point Pleasant, which is credited as being the first battle of the American Revolution by the Senate of the United States, to the Battle of Great Bridge, the Burning of Norfolk, etc.

May we forever remain vigilant and committed to preserving and protecting the self-evident truths and freedoms fought for and so carefully outlined in our nation's founding documents by our Founding Fathers.

I extend to all those involved with the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution my best wishes on the occasion of its 125th anniversary, and look forward to this organization's continued success.

BIOGRAPHY OF MARY BROOM-
THOMAS

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I submit the biography of Mary Broom-Thomas, a wife, mother and woman of faith who lived to the ripe age of 101 years and who will be missed by many who loved her.

Mrs. Mary Broom-Thomas was born on January 22, 1914 in Lexington, Mississippi to Alberta Garnett-Broom and Cleveland Broom. She graduated from Saints Industrial High School in Lexington, Mississippi and taught there for 2 years.

Mary married Leroy Thomas, Sr. in 1937 and the couple moved to Jackson, Mississippi, where they built a home. They had four children, McKinley, Abraham, Earnestine, and Leroy, Jr.

After Leroy finished military duty in the South Pacific, Mary and Leroy moved the family to Compton, California in 1955. Mary practiced her vocation as a seamstress, making her own patterns and designing clothes, including garments for her children and some specialty sales for friends and family. After the children graduated from Centennial and Locke High Schools and were off to college and building careers, Mary took a job at Newberry's Department Store in downtown Los Angeles. She continued sewing clothing, but later added making handbags and light upholstery to her sewing skills portfolio.

Mrs. Thomas was a member of First A.M.E. Church where Reverend Dr. Cecil Murray was Pastor. They continued to visit at family gatherings after his retirement and by then she became less mobile.

Up until seven years ago, Mrs. Thomas always had an organic garden. She grew an array of vegetables and fruits. She and her family were healthier for it . . . she lived a great 101 years.

She raised her children to embrace the Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." She lived the example. She taught the core values of honesty, respect, humility, courage and the necessity of sometimes standing alone as long as you stand for the right thing.

She championed education. Some of her most favorite people: The Honorable Maxine Waters, Congresswoman; the Honorable Barack Obama—she was glad to see the first African-American become President of the United States; the late former Mayor Tom Bradley; Malcom X; Dr. Martin Luther King; Mrs. Rosa Parks; Reverend Dr. Cecil L. Chip Murray; Kobe Bryant; and Shaquille O'Neil as she was an avid Laker fan. She attended a personal reception with the team along with her grandson, Demetrius Wilson.

She has been honored with a published song entitled "Mary," composed, scored and written by her grandson, Endeale (Sky) Wilson; and she has been given a tribute by her grandson, Demetrius (Red) Wilson, via a personalized brick on the residential mall at Xavier University, his alma mater, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

One would often hear her quoting from an old spiritual, "needless pain we bear . . . all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer."

Just a little about a Queen, who never had to declare herself a queen . . . she just was.

CONGRATULATING PENNY
BUSINGA

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Penny Businga of Gering, Nebraska, on her retirement this month and to honor her 29 years of dedicated service at Educational Service Unit #13 in Scottsbluff.

Before becoming a trailblazer for professional development, Ms. Businga taught in

western Nebraska public schools. She then decided to take her classroom expertise to the next level to assist other educators across the Nebraska Panhandle and beyond.

Ms. Businga devoted her career to ensuring Nebraska teachers have the innovative training and support they need to instill a love of learning in their students. When I worked for her, I personally witnessed Ms. Businga's hard work and dedication to ensuring educational opportunity for young people.

On behalf of the people of Nebraska's Third District, I thank Ms. Businga for her impact on Nebraska education and congratulate her on the start of this new chapter in her life.

RECOGNIZING THE DAMAGING IM-
PACT OF SHELBY COUNTY V.
HOLDER

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the 2nd anniversary of the Shelby County v. Holder Supreme Court ruling. By declaring Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act unconstitutional, the Supreme Court dismantled a key provision to this pivotal voting rights protection. The importance of the Voting Rights Act to our American democracy cannot be overstated. This damaging precedent, set by the nation's highest Court has weakened a piece of legislation that was fundamental to the advancement of the American democracy.

On June 25, 2013, when the Supreme Court decided that states with a history of discrimination against minority voters no longer needed clearance from the federal government to set new voting restrictions, it established a pathway for modern day discriminatory practices. Under this ruling, states across the Deep South, where vestiges of discrimination are still present, were able to enact stricter voting requirements for the first time since 1965.

Many of these states, including my home state of Texas, are governed by Republican-led state legislatures that insist on the necessity of voter ID laws to protect the integrity of elections. However, Mr. Speaker, it is quite clear that these laws, which disproportionately affect African-Americans, Hispanics and poor people, are a political ploy to suppress voter turnout. This runs counter to the Constitutional right to vote, which is the cornerstone of our democracy.

Recently, as a result of the Shelby County v. Holder ruling, Texas implemented restrictive voter ID laws that prohibit voting autonomy for many underserved minorities across the state. During the 2014 election, instead of being granted the opportunity to cast their vote of choice, many voters were turned away on the basis of technicalities.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot fathom how these actions would be permissible among any group of lawmakers. Today, I stand before you to call attention to this fact. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was implemented to ensure that all Americans have the ability to exercise their right to vote. This body should act in a bipartisan fashion to ensure that this right is fully restored.