

Rights Movement and the passage of civil rights legislation in Congress in a game-based, interactive learning environment. Continuing to innovate and make history relevant to today's students will ensure our next generation can prepare for our future challenges by learning from the past. Kevin continually engages with my office to educate his students which inspires his students to become more active citizens of the United States.

In 2013, I had the honor of meeting with Kevin in D.C. to congratulate him on his 2012 American Civic Education Teacher Award. I am proud once again to congratulate Kevin on his 2016 National History Teacher of the Year award. On behalf of all Hoosiers, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Kevin for his contributions to our schools, history education, and most importantly to our students. As the daughter, sister and mom of teachers, I know the difficult, yet rewarding, job he has. The very best teachers have a deep passion for their subject matter, devoting themselves to not only sharing wisdom but igniting enthusiasm and excitement in their pupils. In a time when there is concern for declining civic engagement Kevin Cline is guiding the next generation of Indiana students to be knowledgeable, passionate, and engaged members of their community and the United States. Congratulations Kevin, your award is well-deserved.

HONORING UPROSE ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2016*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to UPROSE, a pillar of social justice organizing in New York City and Brooklyn's oldest Puerto Rican/Latino community based organization. This year, UPROSE will celebrate five decades of fighting for progress and advancing the rights of New York's working families and people of color.

UPROSE was founded during the civil rights movement and has made significant strides over the last five decades. The organization has helped prevent polluting power plants from being located in lower income neighborhoods. It has impacted transportation policy, improving transit options for hardworking Brooklyn communities. The organization has made fighting climate change a centerpiece of its agenda. Indeed, it has sent three young people of color to Antarctica and one to the North Pole on scientific expeditions, to observe these environmental issues firsthand.

Likewise, UPROSE has been at the forefront of ensuring that our local industrial sector continues to blossom, while providing good paying, union jobs for local residents in the community.

Centered near Brooklyn's Sunset Park, UPROSE has always stood for this neighborhood's diversity. With a thriving immigrant population and more affordable housing than many parts of Brooklyn, Sunset Park attracts new waves of working people every year. UPROSE has stood with them for generations, empowering these New Yorkers to improve and strengthen the neighborhood, borough and City that they call home.

Mr. Speaker, after five decades UPROSE remains an anchor in our community, fighting for justice and improving our community locally. I would ask all my colleagues to join me on their fifty years of progress and wish them the best for many more years of achievement and success.

HONORING THE SAFE COMMUNITIES AMERICA PROGRAM AND THE INAUGURAL SAFE COMMUNITIES AMERICA DAY IN DALLAS

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2016*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the Safe Communities America program and the inaugural Safe Communities America Day, which will take place in Dallas on October 5th. Safe Communities America is a program of the National Safety Council which recognizes communities that prioritize safety and take deliberate steps to improve the health and safety of its citizens. I am proud to say that the first Safe Communities Day will be celebrated in Dallas, which was the first U.S. city—and first urban city worldwide—to be accredited as an International Safe Community. In fact, the City of Dallas has proudly retained its accreditation since 1996.

The City of Dallas and its local partners have worked tremendously hard to improve the safety and security of our communities in Texas. For over 20 years, the City of Dallas has been implementing Operation Installation, a residential fire safety program. The Injury Prevention Center of Greater Dallas has teamed up with the Dallas Fire Rescue Department to go door-to-door, installing smoke alarms at homes in neighborhoods most impacted by fire-related deaths, resulting in a 74 percent decrease in fire deaths. Since its inception, this partnership has installed more than 30,000 smoke alarms, covering 42,000 residents.

More recently, Dallas Safe Communities has implemented PHOTOVOICE, a project that teaches middle school students how to use a camera and photographs to improve pedestrian safety in the Vickery Meadow area. Students are getting involved in their communities by taking photographs of broken sidewalks, absent sidewalks, damaged pedestrian signals and share their "story" with city officials to advocate for improved safety.

Our neighboring City of Fort Worth has also been an accredited Safe Community since 2013. A variety of services are being offered around the city in order to have a comprehensive approach to fall prevention, including free home safety evaluations to seniors via the local fire department, education to first-responders on home safety hazard recognition, Matter of Balance classes, an evidence based-approach to falls prevention, offered to older adults through multiple community partners, STEADI (fall screening and intervention) training for local physicians and medication management via pharmacists and Meals on Wheels. With one of the fastest growing elder populations in Texas, the Ft. Worth coalition is committed to keeping older adults injury free.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that the Cities of Dallas and Fort Worth, in conjunction with local organizations, are taking the lead to promote safety within our communities. I would also like to reiterate my support for the Safe Communities America program, which has proven to be a tremendous initiative led by the National Safety Council. This program has helped to create safer environments in our neighborhoods while engaging local citizens and encouraging individuals of all ages to become active members of their communities.

COMMEMORATING MRS. FRANCISCA MARTINEZ

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2016*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Gold Star Mother and Laredoan Mrs. Francisca Martinez.

Mrs. Martinez was born September 3, 1911, in Linares, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, to parents Jesus Jasso and Francisca Trevino Jasso. She immigrated to the United States when she was fourteen years old. Her family settled in Laredo, Texas, and she soon became a United States citizen. Mrs. Martinez later met Enrique Martinez who would become her husband in 1929.

Francisca was a proud mother of eight children, Estanislado, Guadalupe, Petra, Maria Antonietta, Enrique, Jesus, Antonio, and Maria Aurora. Five of her sons served in the United States Army. Her oldest son, Estanislado Martinez, was wounded in the Korean War and her second eldest, Sgt. First Class Guadalupe Martinez, a Green Beret, was killed in action during the Vietnam War. It is because of her son's brave service and sacrifice that she became a member of the American Gold Star Mothers Organization.

Francisca was affectionately called "Panchita" by those close to her, who remember her passion and commitment to serving the community. She instilled a sense of service and charity in all her children. Francisca spent her life caring for others, continuing to volunteer at the local food bank on a weekly basis even into her later years.

Mrs. Martinez is survived by her sons, Jesus and Antonio Martinez; her daughters, Petra Hill and Maria Aurora Gutierrez; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and countless friends. Her legacy will live on in Laredo and she will be remembered for the countless lives that she touched in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the life of Francisca "Panchita" Martinez.

IN HONOR OF JACQUELINE A. ELLIS

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2016*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant and outstanding citizen, Jacqueline A. Ellis. Sadly,

Jacqui passed away last week. A memorial service will be held on Friday, September 30, 2016 at Reid Temple A.M.E. Church in Glenn Dale, Maryland. The homegoing service will be held on Saturday, October 8, 2016 at Union Missionary Baptist Church in Mobile, Alabama.

Jacqueline A. Ellis came into this world on October 22, 1957 in Mobile, Alabama. Growing up during the tumultuous times of the Civil Rights Movement, Jacqui spent her life and career working to advance the interests of African Americans and women. Jacqui worked on Capitol Hill for nearly three decades, and her list of accomplishments and successes reflects her dedication to public service and the citizens she served.

Jacqui attended Jarvis Christian College from 1976 to 1980. Later on in life, Jacqui was inducted into the Jarvis Christian College's Pioneers Hall of Fame. This honor highlighted her contributions to the school, and the positive recognition her career and successes brought to Jarvis Christian College. Her contributions to generations of students did not end there, however, as she also was a guest lecturer at the Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University as well as a Co-Chair of the Bethune-DuBois Institute, Inc. Leadership Forum. The Bethune-DuBois Institute, named after two prominent African American educators, Mary McLeod Bethune and Dr. W.E.B. DuBois, strives to advance the interests and opportunities of African Americans through education and leadership development.

Jacqui was a former National Board Member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), a civil rights group founded in response to the Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1955. The SCLC is now a national organization focused on fighting for human rights around the world. The SCLC honored Jacqui with the Ella Baker Award. Ella Baker was one of the most important leaders in the Civil Rights Movement, as well as a founding member of the SCLC.

In addition, Jacqui was a National Board Member for the National Congress of Black Women; a founding member of the Organization of African-American Administrative Assistants and Chiefs of Staff; Chair of the Legislative Issues and Public Affairs Committee for the Links, Inc.; and Social Action Commissioner for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Jacqui spent 28 years working on Capitol Hill, where she had a smile or a word of advice for any Member, staffer, or visitor who needed it. On the Hill, she worked for former Congressman Major Owens of New York and former Senator Howell Heflin of Alabama, and she served as the Chief of Staff for Congressman AL GREEN of Texas. Having worked in both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, Jacqui was lauded by many past and present elected officials for her institutional knowledge and her selfless dedication to public service.

In recognition of her altruistic spirit, Jacqui was awarded the Congressional Black Associates' Robert H. Ogle Trailblazer's Award for her mentorship and support of African-American staffers and Mobile, Alabama's NAACP Redeemer of the Dream Leadership Award.

Throughout her life, Jacqui always dedicated herself to causes that made a difference

in the lives of others. George Washington Carver once said, "No individual has any right to come into the world and go out of it without leaving behind distinct and legitimate reasons for having passed through it." We are so grateful that Jacqueline Ellis gave her time and talents to serving on Capitol Hill. She touched the lives of so many in the halls of Congress, including my own. She was a dear friend of longstanding to me and my family. Truly, Capitol Hill shined a little brighter because of Jacqueline Ellis.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and my wife Vivian in extending our deepest condolences to Jacqueline Ellis's family, friends, and loved ones during this difficult time. We pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

#### TRIBUTE TO ERNIE SMITH

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ernie Smith of Red Oak, Iowa, for being named by the Guinness Book of World Records as the oldest active pilot in the world.

Ernie has been a licensed pilot since September 15, 1942. For the past 74 years, local friends have known that, if you cannot find Ernie nearby, he is probably up in the sky. In January 2016, Red Oak Airport Manager Kevin McGrew and other community leaders nominated him for the distinction of "oldest active pilot in the world." Later this spring, they videotaped a flight to authenticate his activity in the air. The official pronouncement from the Oiliness Book of World Records came recently, confirming that Ernie Smith, 98, is officially "the oldest active pilot in the world," soaring beyond the previous record by five years.

Ernie told Omaha, Nebraska-based KMTV-TV last December why he likes to fly: "I say, well, I don't know how to tell you, but you come out some morning before daylight and go out and watch that sun come up over the horizon and you'll have your answer." Ernie still flies in a rented plane, usually two times a week. He even braved foggy weather conditions to celebrate his 98th birthday in the sky last December.

Mr. Speaker, it is because of Iowans like Ernie that I'm proud to represent our great state in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him for this outstanding accomplishment and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

#### RECOGNIZING THE TOWN OF CLARKSTOWN IN ROCKLAND COUNTY, NEW YORK

### HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 28, 2016*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Town of Clarkstown in Rockland

County, New York, as it celebrates its 225th anniversary year. I am honored to represent this community with its richly diverse population, beautiful and thriving business districts, lovely homes and lush parks.

Clarkstown was created by an act of the New York State Legislature on March 18, 1791, during George Washington's first term as President. It was part of Orange County and then of Rockland County, which was created seven years later.

At Clarkstown's founding, the population had less than 2,000 residents. As New York built its early parkways and the Tappan Zee Bridge, the population grew rapidly and continues to grow. According to the United States Census, the town population now stands at more than 87,000. Its 41 square miles encompass the hamlets of Bardonia, Central Nyack, Congers, New City, Valley Cottage, West Nyack, Upper Nyack and portions of the Villages of Nyack and Spring Valley.

The town, like the county, was settled by farmers, and grew as businesses opened to serve the community. During the 19th century, ice was harvested from the pristine waters of Rockland Lake, now a park, and floated down the Hudson River to barges that would supply New York City. At the same time, local quarries provided material for new construction in the city.

Today, more than half of working residents are employed within the county. Most of Clarkstown's commercially zoned land exists along the town's state roadways, and within the town's hamlet centers. Residents also work at nearby pharmaceutical and tech companies that are moving into the area.

Clarkstown's residents included Jacob Vanderbilt, whose property is now the site of Germonds Park, a recreational facility owned by the town. Other resident families whose holdings remain important to the town include the Cropseys, whose farm dates back to 1893. The family retired and sold the land to Clarkstown in 2006 through Rockland County's Open Space Program. Rockland Farm Alliance then signed a lease to maintain the land, thus establishing the thriving Cropsey Community Farm.

The county and the town have long been a refuge for artists. Adolph Zukor, who was key to the burgeoning motion picture industry, bought property in New City on what is now called Zukor Road. The painter and muralist Henry Varnum Poor, the playwright Maxwell Anderson, and the composer Kurt Weill and his wife, the actor Lotte Lenya, lived on South Mountain Road in New City. While the attraction was the bucolic nature of the county and its considerable distance from New York City, actors and other artists are now attracted not only because the county and its homesteads are beautiful, but because of its proximity to New York City, now a short ride on roadways, trains and bridges.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the Town of Clarkstown on this special anniversary as its residents celebrate its distinguished past and look ahead to a strong future.