

1918. After 9/11, Azerbaijan was and continues to be an important counterterrorism partner for the United States, participating in coalitions combating international terrorism and sending its own troops to support U.S.-led military efforts in Afghanistan, Kosovo, and Iraq.

Azerbaijan is an important actor for the advancement of global security and diplomatic engagement on the world stage. It holds observer status in the World Trade Organization, was a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council from 2012 to 2013, and is a member of the NATO Partnership for Peace Program and the OSCE.

I congratulate the people of Azerbaijan on their centennial celebration, and wish them many centuries more of prosperity and success.

IN RECOGNITION OF TEKISHA LEE
FOR BEING NAMED A WOMAN OF
ACHIEVEMENT BY THE KAPPA
FOUNDATION

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tekisha Lee and her acknowledgment as Ypsilanti's Woman of Achievement by the Kappa Foundation. Ms. Lee founded DiverseNote, a career management social network for professionals within an all-inclusive community of professionals.

The Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti-Inkster Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity was established on December 6, 1958. The organization was founded in order to foster relationships between Michigan Kappa Alpha Psis, provide leadership to current students at Michigan universities and mentor youth in suburban Detroit. Since its founding, group members have come together to serve the local community in a variety of ways including golf tournaments, college fairs, pancake breakfasts, Meals on Wheels programs and robust scholarship programming. In addition to their myriad civic endeavors, the fraternity's Kappa Foundation honors female leaders in southeast Michigan annually at their "Women On Achievement" event. This year's honorees include Tekisha Lee, a well-respected leader and businesswoman in our community.

A graduate of Howard University, Ms. Tekisha Lee has turned her lifelong passion for educating and mentoring the next generation of leaders into a successful career. She is the Founder and CEO of DiverseNote, a career recruitment and retention platform that connects candidates with organizations, recruiters, Fortune 500 companies, colleges, universities and alumni associations seeking top talent across the United States. Ms. Lee was also selected as a U.S. Department of State Delegate to the Maghreb region of Africa to advise on job creation and economic development and serves in leadership positions on various non-profit boards including Jobs for Michigan Graduates, the state's top workforce development organization. Ms. Lee has devoted her life to helping others succeed, and she is truly deserving of the Kappa Foundation's recognition.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Tekisha Lee for being named one

of The Kappa Foundation's Women of Achievement. She has distinguished herself with her entrepreneurship and service to the state.

HONORING ETHEL HEDGEMAN
LYLE

HON. FEDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I, Congresswoman FEDERICA S. WILSON, from the 24th district of the great state of Florida, along with my colleagues and Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority sisters Congresswomen ALMA S. ADAMS, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, TERRI A. SEWELL, and BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN, rise today to acknowledge and honor the 110th anniversary of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, and the contributions of its founder, Ethel Hedgeman Lyle. Ethel Hedgeman Lyle was a visionary ahead of her time, an advocate for women's rights, and a dedicated community servant.

We stand to bring witness that Ethel Hedgeman Lyle deserves to be commemorated by a U.S. postage stamp in support of her many achievements.

Mr. Speaker, we are especially honored to be joined by our international president Dr. Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, to validate our efforts. She has been on this mission for a long time. It is a journey she hopes to see to fruition.

Mr. Speaker, we are beaming with pride and overflowing with excitement because we are on the verge of making history by bestowing an honor that is about 110 years overdue.

Mr. Speaker in recognition of her great achievements, Ethel Hedgeman Lyle deserves to be commemorated with a United States postage stamp.

Mr. Speaker, Ethel Hedgeman Lyle founded Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority in 1908 on a cold January day on the campus of Howard University during a time when Jim Crow laws segregated African-American women and prevented us from joining established Greek organizations. Undeterred by the obstacles of race and gender, she created a legacy of sisterhood that continues to inspire millions of women to devote their lives to community service and activism. She deserves a stamp.

Mr. Speaker, Soror Ethel Hedgeman Lyle cut through the bitter cold of that winter day like a ray of hope, a guiding light, if you will. And, today we have an opportunity to propel the initiative to further immortalize her impeccable character and extraordinary achievements through her commemoration on a U.S. postage stamp.

Mr. Speaker, today, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, is an international service organization with more than 300,000 members in more than 1,000 graduate and undergraduate chapters across the globe. The sorority is headquartered in Chicago and oversees the operations of two charitable foundations. Alpha Kappa Alpha, Incorporated, has inspired millions of women to dedicate their lives to realize its motto, "Service to All mankind." These accomplishments were made possible by Ethel Hedgeman Lyle's vision to

combine scholastic merit, personal achievement, and the rich historic African-American culture to create a women's collegiate-service based organization that has lasted 110 years. She deserves a stamp.

Mr. Speaker, as members of Congress and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, we are humbled to be able to support this effort. Thousands of our members across the globe have signed letters in support of the initiative She Deserves a Stamp. Just making that statement puts me in awe of how incredible Soror Ethel Hedgeman Lyle and her classmates really were.

You see, when they agreed to come together to make history by doing what had never been done before, African Americans and women didn't have the right to vote.

African Americans couldn't even share a lunch counter or schools with whites in 1908.

But, today, 49 African Americans are serving in Congress . . . and seven of them are members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

Mr. Speaker, I think Soror Ethel Hedgeman Lyle knew that one day African Americans and women would be able to vote. She knew that one day African Americans would serve in Congress. And, I strongly believe she knew that if given the opportunity, African-American women would become the most educated demographic in America. She knew this at a time when most women were denied an education. She deserves a stamp.

She is a "Guiding Light." She still shines on the path others didn't know existed.

Her work has lighted a path for many social and academic organizations that tear down the walls of racial and gender inequality. Her work has lighted the path for millions of women to attend college. Her work has shone brightly to highlight how living a life that is dedicated to "Service to All Mankind" can change the world in ways we never thought possible. She deserves a stamp.

Mr. Speaker, now, she needs our support. We have to be a part of this movement. This is our chance to give back to someone who has given the world so much, and continues to give through her legacy. To paraphrase an African proverb, "We are, because she was." And, if anyone has ever deserved to be on a stamp, it is the prestigious, wonderful, visionary Ethel Hedgeman Lyle, the founder of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, the first African American Greek Letter Sorority. She deserves a stamp.

TRIBUTE TO KYLE BISCOGLIA

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Kyle Biscoglia of Waukee High School for winning the Class 3A, 120-pound bracket at the Iowa High School State Wrestling tournament. This is Kyle's third straight championship.

Iowa has a long and proud history of strong wrestling programs, producing college and Olympic champions for years. Kyle contributes his success to years of hard work and commitment and the support of his parents, family, coaches and fellow teammates.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by Kyle demonstrates the rewards of dedication and perseverance. It is an honor representing Kyle and his family in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize them today. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Kyle on competing in this rigorous competition and in wishing him nothing but continued success in his education and in his future college education at the University of Northern Iowa.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN OUR BACKYARD AND IN OUR CONVENIENCE STORES

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, May 29th marked the 3-year anniversary of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act (JVTA). This legislation officially declared that modern-day slavery will not be tolerated in our country. Since its passage the United States has seen enormous efforts to find and protect victims of this scourge on society. While JVTA took an important step forward in the fight against human trafficking, much more must be done.

The International Labor Organization estimates that there are still hundreds of thousands of victims of human trafficking in America. One challenge we face in this fight is the difficulty associated with finding and communicating with victims.

Since 2006, the nonprofit organization 'In Our Backyard' has been advocating and fighting against the horrors of human trafficking. Recently, this group has created a program known as CSAT—Convenience Stores Against Trafficking.

Not only does this program train clerks to spot signs of human trafficking in victims, it also utilizes the convenience and isolation of the convenience store bathrooms as a way to reach victims. Convenience stores can be found on almost every corner, and they see hundreds of customers each day—making them an easy place for traffickers to bring their victims without the fear of being found out.

Now, In Our Backyard is attempting to turn the tables on these criminals and transform convenience stores into places where victims can come across both highly trained staff members and information on hotlines and websites where they can get help. With over 11,000 convenience store locations in 29 states—including my home state of Texas—this organization has been able to help victims all over the country.

The fight against human trafficking is not over. We must recognize and appreciate the volunteers and organizations such as In Our Backyard that have taken up this fight as well. Together, we will succeed in making trafficking a thing of the past.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING JOHN AND BENJEAN RAPP

HON. EVAN H. JENKINS

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John and Benjean Rapp of Summersville, West Virginia. Mr. and Mrs. Rapp are cornerstones in their community, who have dedicated their lives to bettering our nation, and improving West Virginia.

John Rapp served our country in the United States Air Force and returned home to the Mountain State to serve as a West Virginia State Trooper for over 20 years. Outside his time in uniform, John also served as county commissioner for Mercer county from 1990 to 1996. While a county commissioner he prioritized growing the economy and infrastructure development.

Benjean Rapp has been an active member of her church and serves as a local leader through multiple civic groups.

Benjean has played an integral part in working to restore the historic Old Main High School in Summersville.

Together, they have made a tremendous team and have had a positive impact in their community and the Mountain State.

I would like to thank them for their service and dedication to not just their communities but to our nation. I wish them all the best as they continue to work to better our world.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARY HALL-THIAM FOR BEING NAMED A WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT BY THE KAPPA FOUNDATION

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Mary Hall-Thiam for being named a Woman of Achievement by the Kappa Foundation. Dr. Hall-Thiam has distinguished herself through her civic activism and her public service.

The Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti-Inkster Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity was established on December 6, 1958. The organization was founded in order to foster relationships between Michigan Kappa Alpha Psis, provide leadership to current students at Michigan universities and mentor youth in suburban Detroit. Since its founding, group members have come together to serve the local community in a variety of ways including golf tournaments, college fairs, pancake breakfasts, Meals on Wheels programs and robust scholarship programming. In addition to their myriad civic endeavors, the fraternity honors female leaders in southeast Michigan annually at their "Women of Achievement" event. This year's honorees include Mary Hall-Thiam, a longtime public servant and educational champion.

After receiving her Educational Doctorate in Guidance and Counseling from the University of Michigan, Dr. Hall-Thiam began a distinguished tenure of service in the public sector

of the State of Michigan. She has served in various positions including the Acting Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity Programs at the Michigan Department of Human Services as well as co-Project Manager of the 2008 Poverty Summit put on by the state. She is known for her dedication to her work and local community and seeks to give back as often as possible. She currently serves as the President of Pearls and Ivy Foundation of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and as the Chairperson of a branch of the NAACP. Dr. Hall-Thiam is well-known in southeast Michigan for her engagement and activism, and we are grateful for her lifetime of service to our state.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mary Hall-Thiam for being named one of The Kappa Foundation's Women of Achievement. Her leadership has opened doors for all residents of our state and will continue to better public institutions for years to come.

A BAD YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN VIETNAM

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we held a hearing on human rights in Vietnam. It has been a very bad year in Vietnam for human rights. Since the beginning of 2018 alone, the Vietnamese government has handed out sentences totaling over 100 years in prison and house arrest to human rights defenders and democracy advocates.

In the past year alone, 22 bloggers have been jailed as well as six members of the Brotherhood for Democracy. An outrageous 15-year sentence was given to Nguyen Van Dai, whose wife Vu Minh Khanh testified before this committee in 2016.

Nguyen Van Dai should be released unconditionally and immediately. I know he is courageous and he wants to remain in his own country seeking rights and reform. However, if he desires to leave Vietnam, he should be allowed to leave with his wife immediately. Vietnam's loss will be the world's gain.

The Vietnamese government has gotten a free pass on human rights for too long.

There are currently 169 political and religious prisoners in Vietnam, including bloggers, labor and democracy advocates, and religious leaders.

Freedom House rates Vietnam as "Not Free" and possessing of some of the world's highest press and internet restrictions.

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom again this year recommended that Vietnam be designated as a "Country of Particular Concern" for egregious religious freedom abuses. U.S. policy has failed the Vietnamese people. This is a bipartisan criticism. We have enriched Vietnam's Communist leaders and coddled their interests at the expense of the hopes and desires of the Vietnamese people of liberty and human rights.

The Trump Administration has an opportunity to bring about real reforms in Vietnam if tangible human rights improvements are linked to better U.S.-Vietnam relations.

The U.S. has leverage to encourage reform—Vietnam needs a strong U.S. partnership—particularly as China's aggressiveness