

I also remembered hearing stories from other rabbis, some of whom arrived years later. Rabbi Aryeh Ginzberg once related how the mayor had refused to let him sit on a folding chair in his office, insisting on schlepping in a big comfortable leather one for him. "My rabbi doesn't sit on a folding chair if I can do anything about it," he said.

The Mayor would always visit our sukkah, and I heard that after my parents started going away for Yom Tov he continued the tradition by visiting the sukkah of Rabbi Zalman Wolowik, the local Chabad shaliach. When Rabbi and Rebbetzin Wolowik were sitting shivah for their son, Levi Yitzchak, the mayor visited every day.

Somehow, he always managed to figure out a way to make things work, whether it was a shul having a problem with zoning laws or trying to get additional parking spaces. His favorite motto was something like the Gemara's "koach d'heteira adif": "Some people in authority express power by saying no. I express it by saying yes."

As I looked at the medals I thought of what it must have been like for an Italian kid fighting the Nazis and liberating the Jews.

I also reflected on how the towns and the landscape have changed. Orthodox Jews are now on the board of local villages; the deputy (and soon to be) mayor of Cedarhurst is a trustee of the Young Israel of Woodmere. Torah-observant citizens make up the majority of the school board.

I glanced at the coffin and the medals, and the Purple Heart. Being among all the people who had treated my father and our family with such warmth and accommodation, I thought, "I may have gone back to the shtetl of my youth, but I was not with the Lithuanian, Polish or Hungarian collaborators." I was in the presence of the soldiers, and their children who are fighting the Nazis until this very day.

#### CELEBRATING THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

### HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize a very important day in U.S.-Taiwan relations. April 10th marks the 36th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA). This important statute has been critical in defining the diplomatic, economic, and strategic relationship we have enjoyed with Taiwan over the last four decades. The TRA has strengthened our relationship and helped to encourage a particularly strong economic partnership. Over the course of the last few decades, Taiwan has created a thriving and innovative economy that most countries around the world envy. Taiwan plays a critical role in the supply of everyday products and is fully integrated in the global economy.

Also, as we near the 70th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War, it is just and appropriate that we remember the Republic of China's important contributions to the alliance that defeated fascist militarism in that heroic struggle.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to many more decades of cooperation between the United States and Taiwan. I am also confident that if we continue to enhance our economic relationship with this fellow republic, the dynamic

partnership that we've built together will continue to thrive in the future.

#### TRIBUTE TO ARJUN KUNJILWAR

### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Arjun Kunjilwar attends Dawson High School in Pearland, Texas. The essay topic is: in your opinion, why is it important to be involved in the political process?

VOTING: A POWERFUL WAY TO GET INVOLVED IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS

During the time when the US Constitution was first proposed, why was it important that every one of the 13 states ratified it? There wasn't a need for a unanimous vote, but there was a need for unity and full cooperation. In a similar sense, while voting on an issue doesn't have to be undisputed, it represents a loyalty and adherence to the American belief of democracy where individual voices and opinions can be freely expressed. Every citizen should vote in any election because individual beliefs can unite together to achieve anything desired. A vote can represent so many things. It has the power to magnify one's voice so that it can be heard by others. It can help drive change when many are put together. It signifies a person's concern and perspective of what actions will lead to improvement. It can unite a group of people to help work towards a certain goal.

In today's society, presidential election voting seems to have lost some of its importance. Since 2004, while the number of people who are eligible to vote has increased by 18,000 (attributed to increasing population), the number of people who actually fill out the ballot has increased only about 7,000, and the percent of the population that actually does vote has dropped about 2%. In a society that constantly focuses on what can be improved, voting provides the stimulus for change. People may choose not to vote because they don't feel as if their opinion will cause or spark anything. Yet, voting is the most efficient tool in the hands of the public that can steer the nation in the direction they desire. It also allows the governing bodies to know what is exactly expected of them and keeps them in check. Voting therefore, represents an unalienable role in the government, and should be considered as an important duty of every citizen.

Finally the right to vote it is the greatest symbol of any democracy where the freedom to make choices will always prevail. While the voting process might not give every citizen his or her vision of a perfect society, those who choose to vote express a loyalty to their nation and the want to have it functioning perfectly. So while all votes might not be needed to determine a majority, doesn't each and every one of them have their own value?

HONORING DAVID SHUFFLER

### HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, as we give pause this month to commemorate the innumerable contributions that African Americans have made—and continue to make—to our nation, I rise to honor a Bronx activist, organizer and impassioned voice for community empowerment. It is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to applaud Mr. David Shuffler for his many years of compassionate public service and tireless work to improve the lives of our community residents.

Mr. Shuffler was born and raised in the South Bronx where he continues to live, work, and serve the community today. Mr. Shuffler is the Executive Director at Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice (YMPJ). YMPJ is a multi-service, faith based, grassroots community organization located in the Bronx River/Soundview sections of the Bronx that has served the community with unwavering dedication for more than twenty years.

Mr. Shuffler began his career as a public servant when he became a member at Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice in the summer of 1994. Upon quickly joining the staff at YMPJ, Mr. Shuffler became an integral part of forming the original R.I.V.E.R. Team, which led grassroots community organizing efforts that resulted in victories like the creation of Concrete Plant Park and Starlight Park. Today, these parks offer more than thirty acres of waterfront park space, and play a critical role in the realization of the South Bronx Greenway. Mr. Shuffler was also a leader on other important issue campaigns such as unemployment and police reform. The breadth of issues that David Shuffler has worked to champion over the years speaks to the power of his vision, and his commitment to ensuring that the quality of life of individuals in our community is consistently improving.

Today, Mr. Shuffler continues to influence various levels of government on a wide spread of local issues. Over the course of his career he has been able to secure over \$50 million dollars for community led efforts throughout the city and helped move effective policy which has directly benefitted some of the most vulnerable individuals in our community. I am grateful to Mr. Shuffler for his ongoing dedication to our community, and I am honored to call him a fellow public servant.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Mr. David Shuffler for his consistently remarkable dedication to public service and longstanding commitment to improving our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF JOHN AMOROSO

### HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chief John Amoroso on his retirement after four years of dedicated service as

the Chief of Police to the people of Avenal, California.

Chief Amoroso was born on June 10, 1956 in San Francisco, California. He graduated from Abraham Lincoln High School in 1974. He went on to attend the College of the Sequoias on a baseball scholarship, where he earned an Associate of Science Degree.

In July 1976, Chief Amoroso married Susan Brown. The couple would go on to have two daughters, Amy and Melissa.

Chief Amoroso started his distinguished law enforcement career in 1979 with the Hanford Police Department (HPD). He served with the department for nine years and earned the rank of Sergeant before being hired by the Kings County Sheriff's Office in 1988. In 1992, Chief Amoroso was awarded a Medal of Valor for his work in a SWAT mission that resulted in the arrest of a double homicide suspect. Chief Amoroso spent 21 years with the Kings County Sheriff's Office before retiring in December 2009.

On April 1, 2010, the City of Avenal hired Chief Amoroso to establish Avenal's first police department. In addition to hiring officers, acquiring equipment, purchasing vehicles, and facilitating officer training, he designed the Ken Brown Public Safety Center where the Avenal Police Department is located.

Chief Amoroso's work to establish the Avenal Police Department fully materialized on November 15, 2010 when the Avenal Police Department relieved the Kings County Sheriff's Office and assumed full responsibility for law enforcement in the City of Avenal.

After dedicating his life to law enforcement, Chief Amoroso is retiring on April 10, 2015.

Avenal and the entire Central Valley community have been extremely fortunate to have a dedicated law enforcement officer such as Chief Amoroso to ensure the wellbeing of their community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Chief John Amoroso for his thirty five years of dedicated law enforcement work in the Central Valley and congratulating him on his recent retirement from the Avenal Police Department.

A TRIBUTE TO JAIMIE MILLER-ACKLEY

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Jaimie Miller-Ackley for being named a 2015 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2015 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Jaimie has the determination and drive to be successful in all that she does, and her exemplary work with Iowa Credit Union Foundation is a testament to that. As the Executive Director of the Iowa Credit Union Foundation, Jaimie is passionate about going the extra mile. Jaimie's exemplary work ethic and dedication to service makes our state proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Jaimie in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Jaimie on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2015 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.

HONORING WILLIE RENE LEFLORE

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Ms. Willie Rene Leflore.

Ms. Leflore is a lifetime resident of Sunflower County, Mississippi.

Ms. Leflore is a soldier encouraging others to sign up and be counted. In her words, "Gone are the days of nurturing, chopping, hoeing, hauling water pails, getting up early, catching Bill Henderson's bus, etcetera, to work from sun up to sun down for \$3.15 daily".

Growing up, Ms. Leflore wanted to be free to enter the front doors of Labella Restaurant and ride at the front of the Grey Hound Bus. So, Ms. Leflore took a stand, and marched beside Cora Stone Johnson, Nelson Dotson, John Richardson, Lene and others for her civil rights.

Ms. Leflore is a soldier for what is right. She believes in receiving the same privileges and rights as other races. She believes that all adults have their own mind to decide on what they want to participate in as long as it is right. She fought for that privilege. It was an acquired desire to march beside others who shared the same belief.

Ms. Leflore worked, never missing a day unless she was sick. When she became ill, she had to retire. She has received numerous commendations as a loyal supporter of all athletic activities at Gentry High School. To this day, she still uses the phone as her legs and mouth, encouraging others to stand and show themselves approved. She believes that standing for what you believe in regardless, of the odds against you, and the pressure that tears at your resistance means courage, which is what she had to constantly remind herself of. She always kept a smile on her face, even when on the inside she felt like dying. She stopped at nothing. Doing what was instilled in her heart, is to make another's life a little more bearable. When she was in the moment, she was loyal, she wasn't selfish and she kept her head high.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Willie Rene Leflore for her dedication to serving others and giving back to the African American community.

IN RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION OF MR. LONNIE POWELL AND HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO KANSAS CITY'S ARTISTIC COMMUNITY

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to honor the contributions of Kansas City Artist and Educator, Mr. Lonnie Powell. Mr. Powell is a native of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, which I proudly represent, and his professional contributions continue to enhance the skills of young artists, and have united artists for the purpose of showcasing talent. Additionally, his unique abilities have created a treasure of expressive visual art. To have the respect of one's peers and the leadership skills to make a significant difference in one's community is the rarest of gifts. But to have the additional commitment, energy, and desire to pursue and achieve one's goals are equally extraordinary qualities.

Mr. Powell's artistic development began at a young age, when he cultivated the desire to draw and create using his pencil. Despite the stress his father had placed on the importance of trade skills for financial stability, after graduating from Central High School in Kansas City, Powell chose to pursue higher education. He graduated from Lincoln University, in Jefferson City, Missouri, in 1966 with a Bachelor of Science in Art Education, and promptly began his long career in education.

From 1966 to 1975, Powell taught art at several schools in the Kansas City, Missouri School District. He introduced his students to different artistic techniques and delighted in their individual creativity. Powell began working on his Master's Degree in Art Education at Central Missouri State College and had completed 37 hours when the private sector enticed him to leave teaching and join the corporate world. At Xerox Corporation, he made President's Club, an honor reserved for the upper echelon of the national sales force. Though he had significant accomplishments, and had received numerous awards, there was little time left for creating art. He missed the students and felt a pervading emptiness. Therefore, after eight years in the corporate world, Powell returned to his real passion, teaching art. He has often said that he learned from his students as much as they learned from him. He quotes Pablo Picasso, "Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up."

In 2000, Powell retired from teaching and focused on his own artistic career. He is well known for his visual narratives which illustrate the subject's feeling and glimpses into their thoughts. Through mediums of oil, acrylics, watercolor, pastels, and pencil, he exposes the soul. For Powell, a finished piece is first appreciated and then evaluated in order to avoid complacency and continually strive to improve.

In 2001, Lonnie Powell became the founder and president of The Light in the Other Room. This organization remains active and has formed many partnerships in the name of art. Powell had envisioned a collaborative of African-American, Kansas City based artists that would benefit both the community and participating artists. Powell says "The two greatest