

diversity of race, religion, and personalities. But one thing is a constant in Sharon: the friendliness of its townspeople. As my hometown, where I resided for over half a century, I had the pleasure of a place that valued the meaning of friendship. The people of Sharon are kind, tolerant, spirited and it is due to their love of neighborliness that Sharon has been able to remain a steadfast community, truly representing the very best that our Commonwealth and our country has to offer.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the 250th anniversary of Sharon, Massachusetts. May this beautiful Massachusetts town flourish for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO COL. PETE
HILGARTNER

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 19, 2015

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember a truly selfless resident of Great Falls, Virginia, Col. Pete Hilgartner.

Not long after graduating high school Col. Hilgartner began his service to our nation by enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps. He received a fleet appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy and upon graduation in 1951 was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps.

During the Korean War, he served as an artillery forward observer and received the Bronze Star with Combat "V" for meritorious conduct against the enemy in these actions.

In Vietnam, he commanded the 1st Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, the most decorated combat battalion in the U.S. Marine Corp. His tour as Battalion Commander of a frontline Marine Infantry Battalion was one of the longest of any during the war and his battalion fought in numerous actions, including every major action that occurred in the 1st Marine Division sector from November 1966 to September 1967. His six and a half foot stature earned him the name "Highpockets" by his Marines, who loved him for his competency and his concern for his men's welfare.

Under his command, his unit received two Presidential Unit Citations, for Operations Union, Union II, and Swift. Col. Hilgartner himself was awarded twice the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm, the Legion of Merit, and the Silver Star medal, for gallantry in combat during Operation Swift.

Upon completion of his first tour, Col. Hilgartner completed a Master's degree only to return for an additional tour as a staff officer in Saigon eventually achieving the rank of Colonel by the time of his retirement from active duty in 1972. From there he would transition into a successful career in the brokerage investment business, author of two books and serve as an active member of the community; holding multiple roles as a Virginia Hunter Education Instructor, President of both the McLean Rotary Club and Northern Virginia Brittany Club, and in the aftermath of September 11th led the Great Falls Memorial Committee helping create the Great Falls Memorial in the remembrance of those lost in the September 11th attacks.

Col. Hilgartner is survived by his wife, Sara Hilgartner, his five children by his first wife, Frances Haynes Hilgartner: Linda Bassett, Diana Boyd, Dale Cirillo, David Hilgartner, and Paul Hilgartner, 10 grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, his stepson Greg Fernlund and his step-grandchildren. "Uncle Pete" was also a loving uncle and grandfather to his deceased brother Fielding's 5 children and 11 grandchildren.

Col. Hilgartner will always be remembered for his heroic service to his nation and will truly be missed by all of the many lives that he touched and enriched.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE, LEGACY,
AND WORK OF CLEMENTE PUGH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 19, 2015

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the life, legacy, and work of my dear distinguished friend, Clemente Pugh who was affectionately known to all of us as "Clem". As a

strong believer in the power of knowledge, she demonstrated the importance of learning and expanding educational opportunities to women and African Americans throughout our great Nation. On June 20th, at Harlem's historic, The Riverside Church, family and community gathers to memorialize Clem's life and contributions to opening our minds to the importance of culture, honesty, and knowledge.

On April 11, 1925, Clemente was born to Alberta and Otho High in Raleigh, North Carolina. She attended Shaw University where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree. She began her career as a psychiatric social worker, moving on to becoming a public school teacher and eventually, a professor at Hunter and Lehman Colleges of the City University of New York. After 20 years of service at Lehman College, she was awarded the title of Professor Emeritus Education. She went on to earn a Master of Social Work degree in 1949 from New York's Columbia University and a Doctorate in Education from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1982 where she was awarded the prestigious title of Professor Emeritus of Education for her teachings.

Clem vividly strived for honesty and understanding. She made it her duty to present others with the awareness she obtained. Her tireless effort to engage, enjoy, and educate people touched the hearts of every person she met. A woman ahead of her time, Clemente Pugh tackled the many realms of "isms" including, racism, sexism and classism. Her life was devoted to acknowledging and improving how these infected opinions affect African American people. With her remarkable resilience, I am proud to have called Clemente and her husband, Douglas Pugh, my dear and very special friends. I know that her legacy will live on for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me as we pay tribute to such a treasure to our community. I pledge to continue to carry out her tradition of provoking thought and feeling for all who have lost their way, or simply need to be reminded of who we are, what we come from, and how we can overcome any obstacle presented before us.