

global field research programs that help us understand and protect threatened marine life.

I thank Ted for all he has done to help us bring the amazing wildlife of Earth's oceans to Chicago. He has helped introduce millions of Chicagoans and visitors to the incredible creatures living beneath the ocean's waves. I am especially grateful for all he has done to protect marine animals around the world.

FIRST RESPONDER IDENTIFICATION OF EMERGENCY NEEDS IN DISASTER SITUATIONS

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise in support of H.R. 2795, the First Responders Identification of Emergency Needs in Disaster Situations (FRIENDS) Act, which was introduced by my friend Rep. SHEILA JACKSON LEE of Texas. That her bill is expected to be approved with overwhelming bipartisan support, including from Chairman MIKE MCCAUL of the Homeland Security Committee, ought to surprise no one, because Rep. JACKSON LEE has worked tirelessly on behalf of America's first responders to move this legislation through the House. Her legislation would launch a study of best practices and state of preparedness of state and local response agencies with the aim of improving safety and access to lifesaving resources.

This bill recognizes the important role first responders play in communities throughout our country. We must ensure that these men and women have the resources they need to perform their jobs safely and effectively. We've witnessed the courage of first responders, from the September 11 attacks to the Boston Marathon bombings and at last week's deadly shooting in San Bernardino, California. We see it every day all over our nation.

I've been incredibly proud to support first responders as Co-Chair of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, and I want to thank Rep. SHEILA JACKSON LEE for her work to bring the FRIENDS Act to the Floor. I also want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their support for this legislation in committee and in the full House.

TRIBUTE TO R. KELLY BRYANT, JR.

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2015

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise and ask my Colleagues to join me in paying tribute to R. Kelly Bryant, Jr., a friend and constituent who passed away on December 6, 2015 at the blessed age of 98 years old. It is worth noting that his date of death was the 150th Anniversary of the Ratification of the 13th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution which legally abolished slavery in America.

Mr. Speaker, Kelly Bryant enjoyed a full life. He graduated from Hampton University, with a concentration in accounting. Following gradua-

tion, Mr. Bryant worked for historic North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company from the 1940's until his retirement in 1981. His true passion, however, was documenting the history of African American citizens in the City and County of Durham.

Mr. Bryant's contribution to the Durham Community is boundless. He worked tirelessly in many endeavors, including obtaining a historic marker at the site of the Royal Ice Cream sit-in in 1957, saving Geer Cemetery (one of Durham's oldest African American burial grounds) and the completion of a pedestrian bridge over the Durham Freeway, in order to connect black neighborhoods that were separated by the highway. The bridge was later named in honor of R. Kelly Bryant, Jr.

Mr. Bryant believed strongly in preserving Durham's African American history. He collected over 2,500 funeral programs, obituaries, and birth announcements. His archive is so valuable that the Durham County Library currently hosts the R. Kelly Bryant, Jr. Collection as an online exhibit.

In addition to his work as the local historian, Kelly Bryant was a leader in his community, serving the Durham Business and Professional Chain for 49 years; charter member of the Durham Human Relations Commission, served 37 years as a scoutmaster, and was a member of the Durham chapter of the NAACP. One of his greatest passions was his membership and active participation with the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina and Jurisdictions, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Kelly Bryant also devoted his life to historic White Rock Baptist Church (founded in 1866) in Durham, North Carolina. He was very spiritual in all of his endeavors and embraced the teachings of our Heavenly Father. He served as a Church Trustee for 55 long years.

Mr. Bryant's work did not go unnoticed, he was recognized with many awards and honors, including certificate of acknowledgment and congratulations for his many activities from the North Carolina House of Representatives, NAACP "Freedom Fund Dinner Award", Silver Beaver Award from the Boy Scouts of America for "Distinguished Service to Boyhood", the first African American recipient of the Bartlett Durham Award, and an appointment as the honorary grand master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina and Jurisdiction.

Finally R. Kelly Bryant, Jr. is survived by his son, R. Kelly Bryant, III; his daughter, Sandra Artelia Bryant-Yubwannie, of Durham, North Carolina; a sister Maggie Bryant (age 100) and five wonderful grandchildren, Keith Bryant, Corey Bryant, Mykel Bryant Moore, Yohanna Yubwannie and Raevin Bryant. Mr. Bryant was preceded in death by his spouse of 69 years, Artelia Melba Tennessee Bryant, who was his co-worker at North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company and was the matriarch of their family. Mrs. Artelia Bryant was the descendant of the legendary Darden family of Wilson, North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to pay tribute to such an outstanding American legend. His legacy will live on for generations.

EXTENDING BIRTHDAY WISHES TO HIS MAJESTY: KING BHUMBOL ADULYADEJ OF THAILAND

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2015

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the people of Thailand in extending my warmest wishes to King Bhumibol Adulyadej on the occasion of his 88th birthday on December 5, 2015. During his nearly 70 year reign so far, King Bhumibol Adulyadej has remained a steadfast leader through his commitment to democracy, economic development, and Thai prosperity.

I am grateful for his continued commitment to a strong and long-lasting relationship between the United States and the Kingdom of Thailand. Having had the distinct honor of meeting with King Bhumibol, I have admired his efforts to bring peace, prosperity, and stability for the Thai people.

It is my pleasure to join our Thai friends in recognizing this special day and wishing King Bhumibol Adulyadej a long life of good health and happy 88th birthday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2015

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on Thursday, December 10, 2015 as I was attending a funeral in my district. On Roll Call Vote Number 687, on the bill H.R. 3578, the DHS Science and Technology Reform and Improvement Act of 2015, had I been present I would have voted yea.

On Roll Call Number 689, on H.R. 2795, the FRIENDS Act, had I been present I would have voted yea.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE TERRY BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR OF IOWA

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Governor Terry Branstad for his service to Iowa. On December 14, he will break a 200 year-old record, set by Revolutionary War General and New York Governor, George Clinton, becoming the longest-serving Governor in American history.

Born and raised in a small town in rural Iowa, Governor Branstad's roots in our state run deep. He has spent his life immersed in Iowa politics and elected office. His storied political career stretches back five decades. It began in 1973, when he was first elected to the Iowa House of Representatives. Governor Branstad served in the Iowa House until 1979, and then a single term as Lieutenant Governor before winning the gubernatorial election in 1982, at the age of 36.

Governor Branstad served four consecutive terms and guided Iowa through one of the