

highest level for all residents. She was a fierce fighter, brilliant advocate and hero to all of the tenants.

Dolores also volunteered her services to support the political goals, missions and aspirations of Honorable Lloyd E. Dickens, NYS Assemblyman and business icon, Honorable Basil A. Paterson, NYS Senator and NY State Secretary of State and she was to the end also a strong supporter of NYS Assemblyman Keith L. T. Wright.

What many may not know about Dolores, was that she was a founding member of an elite group of activists—Blackfrica Promotions, a group, which was formed under the leadership of the late and great Percy E. Sutton alongside Lloyd Williams, Joseph Roberts, Marvin Kelly, Larry Frasier, Tony Rogers, Stephanie Francis, Voza Rivers, Jacques DeGraff, Gilbert Paschall, III, Andy Reddick, DiAnne Henderson and her very best friend and sister, Grace Williams. This group was the foundation for HARLEM WEEK and went a long way to reverse the negative trend and images that Harlem had in the early 70s, 80s, and 90s. One of Dolores favorite Blackfrica quotes was “Learning is the beginning of wealth. Learning is the beginning of health. Learning is the beginning of spirituality. Searching and learning is where the miracle process begins.”

Dolores was also a founding charter member of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Democratic Club, where she worked diligently for the elections of H. Carl McCall for State Senate, David N. Dinkins for Manhattan Borough President and Percy E. Sutton for Mayor.

Dolores truly loved to travel and had great fun on her numerous trips, with her family and the members of Blackfrica Promotions, visited Europe, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Canada, Brazil, Latin & South America and many states and cities throughout the USA.

Dolores leaves to mourn her beloved sons, Donald and Geoffrey; her daughter Allyson; her beloved grandsons Geoffrey, Jr. and Geoffrey, III; her nephew Russell Eaton Jr.; daughters-in-law, Melanie, Cheryl and Reiko; her matriarch cousins Eleanor Holmes and Lulu Scott; first cousins Madeline Williams, Michael, Ginger, Laura Ceasar, William and Craig Spooner, Edward, Mark, Jessica Hodge, Iris Mack, Cathy and Thomasina Holmes and Otis Cruse; a host of cousins that hail from the north, the south and the west coast too numerous to name; many more family members; a host of dear friends, neighbors, Donald Eaton, Sr., the father of her sons, and many beautiful memories.

Dee now joins with John “Smitty” Smith, her longtime companion who preceded her in death.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing Dolores Eaton, Sunsets always bring the night and new lights arise with the stars—with this comes new beginnings and we know that this mother, grandmother, aunt, cousin and friend, Dolores Eaton, is up there as one of the new and brightest stars in the sky.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF MRS. MAMIE WILLIAMS

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 2016

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of Mrs. Mamie Williams. I join her family members and friends who gather on January 9, 2016, in Los Angeles, CA to commemorate this special day.

Mamie Williams was born January 6, 1916, in Indianapolis, Indiana to Eugene and Helen Dedmon. She graduated from Crispus Attucks High School in 1933 and married Lefred Williams that same year. Mamie Williams was a woman of many talents and giftings. She was an accomplished pianist and her musical talent became well known throughout the community. She was also a gifted seamstress with an eye for fashion, as she made many of her family's clothes. She began her journey of becoming the Mother of 13 children in Indianapolis with the birth of her first son in 1934. In 1951, the Williams clan moved to Beaumont, California and finally to the greater Los Angeles area where the family resides today.

Throughout her life, Mamie has been a devoted wife and mother who has always been there for her family. Perseverance, hard work, love and respect were just a few of the many lessons taught to those who have known her. In addition to being a Homemaker, Mamie was a member of several service organizations such as the Delta Mothers and the American Business Women Association. She also served 30 years as a volunteer for the Democratic Party where she worked at local polling places on voting day.

Mamie was a member of the Women's Club at Washington Memorial Church where her husband served as a Bishop. Along with the rest of her family, she later became a member of the United Church of Religious Science in Los Angeles and was a graduate of the inaugural Science of Mind class taught by Dr. Hornaday.

Mamie worked side by side for many years with her husband Lefred in the family owned business Youth Town Furniture & Appliances, started in 1969 on Crenshaw Blvd. in Los Angeles. The store became a staple in the local community until Lefred's retirement in 1985, and ultimate passing in 1987.

Today Mamie's legacy includes 11 surviving children, 7 sons and daughters-in-law, 24 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren. Mamie has led an outstanding life, highlighted by her love of family and service to her community. I wish her many more years of health and happiness.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HOME RULE CLEMENCY ACT OF 2016

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 2016

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Home Rule Clemency Act of 2016, a bill that would give

the District of Columbia exclusive authority, like states, to grant clemency to offenders prosecuted under its local laws.

While D.C. law appears to give the mayor authority to grant clemency (D.C. Code 1–301.76), it is currently the opinion of the Department of Justice that the President, and not the Mayor, has the authority to issue clemency for most local offenses prosecuted under D.C. law, particularly felonies prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney in the D.C. Superior Court. Under current practice, clemency petitions for D.C. convictions, like federal convictions, are submitted to the DOJ for the President's consideration.

Whether or not the DOJ's view is correct, my bill would remove all doubt that the District, and not the President, has the authority to issue executive clemency. The District, like states, should have full control of its local criminal justice system, the most basic responsibility of local government. Since the D.C. Council has the authority to enact local laws, District officials are in the best position to grant clemency for local law convictions. My bill would provide all clemency authority not currently reserved to the Mayor under D.C. Code 1–301.76 to the District government and would give D.C. the discretion to establish its own clemency system.

This bill is an important step in establishing further autonomy for the District in its own local affairs. I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,900,932,690,017.04. We've added \$8,274,055,641,103.96 to our debt in 7 years. This is over \$8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

CONFERENCE REPORT FOR THE TRADE FACILITATION AND TRADE ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2015

HON. JOHN C. CARNEY, JR.

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 2016

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I submit this statement regarding House passage of the Conference Report for the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015. Historically, legislation addressing customs procedures and import security has enjoyed bipartisan support. Even when this legislation, also known as the Customs Bill, emerged from the Senate, the new bill included language that was supported by a wide range of stakeholders.

This legislation authorizes the U.S. Customs and Border Protection for the first time since