

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

it was created in 2002. Our rapidly evolving economy requires robust and adaptable trade enforcement, and I'm glad this legislation strengthens our Customs and Border Protection's ability to fulfill this duty. Without these tools in place we would not be able to meet the demands of our growing global economy. This legislation contains important provisions that will enhance and improve our customs procedures and duty laws. Our outdated customs and border policies would be improved by streamlining rules to stop importers from dodging U.S. antidumping and countervailing duties while adding new protections for intellectual property.

That being said, while leaders from across the globe were negotiating the largest climate agreement in history, Congress was debating a bill that intentionally bypassed our nation's ability to address climate change. This legislation provided an opportunity for us to strengthen our commitment to combatting climate change and to hold other nations accountable for their actions—but we let that opportunity slide. Congress cannot continue to pass the buck on this issue, and we should use agreements such as this to hold our trade partners to higher standards. That is why I voted against this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to address these issues. If we do not act now, we set a dangerous precedent for future agreements.

HONORING CHUCK SEEMAN FOR
HIS LEADERSHIP AT UCFS

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 2016

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to thank Mr. Chuck Seeman, President and CEO of United Children and Family Services (UCFS) in Norwich, Connecticut for his 20 years of transformative leadership in eastern Connecticut. While Chuck has held command of UCFS, he has strengthened the organization's financial stability and has expanded services to make UCFS an exemplary community health organization serving the Norwich region and beyond.

This year, to celebrate National Health Center Week, UCFS displayed a flag on the Norwich town green for every client they have served in the past year. The green was covered with 17,000 flags—a visual reminder of the impact that this organization has on our community, and a testament to Chuck's leadership. That same day, I was pleased to announce that after years of hard work on the part of Chuck and his staff, UCFS had received "federally qualified status" that will allow them to expand and enhance the excellent medical, dental, behavioral, and eldercare services to their patients. This announcement was the culmination of nearly five years of advocacy, and will mean that UCFS will thrive and grow for decades to come.

As Chuck retires from his position as CEO this month, I can confidently say that his innovative leadership style, dedication, and drive have made a world of difference for families in eastern Connecticut. I am honored to have worked with Chuck to advocate for improved access to healthcare for our neighbors and I thank him for his steadfast commitment and vision.

Beyond his laudable contributions to his community's health and wellness, Chuck has been an approachable and friendly leader, beloved by the many hundreds of UCFS employees. Although I anticipate that Chuck will continue to contribute to his Connecticut community after leaving his current position, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him a restful retirement, and offering a big thank you for his decades of work advocating for community health in eastern Connecticut.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 2016

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 1, I was unable to record my presence.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ERNIE
GLAVE

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 2016

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues MIKE HONDA and ANNA ESHOO to honor an important member of our community, Mr. Ernie Glave, who passed away on December 22, 2015. Ernie will be remembered for his dedication to San Jose as both a businessman and to the public, especially veterans.

Ernie proudly ran his downtown jewelry shop for over 30 years and was widely known for his exceptional work ethic. Even during the economic recession, while many stores fled to the suburbs or shut down completely, Ernie worked 6 days a week with remarkable enthusiasm and professionalism. He also took pride in downtown San Jose and was known as a leader in the Small Businessman's Association.

An Army World War II veteran, Ernie was also a passionate advocate for veterans. He worked hard to keep the San Jose Veterans Day Parade as one of the largest military pageants in the Western United States. Dedicated to the United Veterans Council, Ernie often spoke at local veterans events and commended their unbreakable bond and commitment to country. When we commemorate Memorial Day at Oak Hill Memorial Park every year, Ernie was always there, always working, always caring.

Today, we honor the life of Ernie Glave. Ernie's commitment to his country and community can only be matched with the strength of his hallmark vise grip. We thank him for his contributions to San Jose and join his loved ones in celebrating his incredible life. He will be deeply missed.

IN HONOR OF THE LEGACY OF
LATE HARRIS COUNTY COMMIS-
SIONER EL FRANCO LEE

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 2016

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to honor the memory of a noble public servant and trailblazer: Harris County Commissioner El Franco Lee. Elected in 1985, after serving in the Texas House of Representatives for five years, Commissioner Lee became the first African American to sit on the Harris County Commissioners Court. He selflessly served Harris County's Precinct 1 for more than a quarter-century with exceptional distinction.

Commissioner Lee was not just a holder of public trust but a pioneer and community leader. He used his compassion and experience to boldly advocate for his constituents and the betterment of his community. Commissioner Lee will be specifically remembered for his impassioned advocacy for better healthcare access and educational opportunities throughout the inner city, as well as his support for the Harris County Precinct One Street Olympics Program.

Mr. Speaker, I am fortunate enough to say that I knew and worked alongside Commissioner Lee. I believe that when history records the legacy of Commissioner Lee, he will be forever remembered for his caring and candid demeanor as he worked to serve his constituents, his county, as well as his country.

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON DE-
FEATS FLORIDA STATE AND
WINS THE PEACH BOWL

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago I spoke on the House floor about the brilliant season the Houston Cougars and their coach, Tom Herman, experienced this year. In that speech I mentioned how the Cougars had a huge fight coming up on New Year's Eve against the traditional blue-blood, powerhouse Florida State Seminoles. Well, December 31st and 2015 have come and gone, and the Houston Cougars finished the year 13-1 with a 38-24 victory over the Seminoles in the Peach Bowl.

Coach Tom Herman may be known as an offensive innovator, but this team fought hard on both sides of the ball. The Cougars' fast-moving and hard-hitting defense rattled Florida State's offense, while their quick-paced and prolific offense sped past the Seminoles' defense. Folks, this game was one for the ages and solidified this season as one of the greatest in Cougar history. There can't be enough said about the resiliency and fight this team showed all year. I'm proud to call myself an alumnus and a Houston Cougar for life.

The Houston Cougars woke up for the first time in 2016 as Peach Bowl champions and proved to the doubters that they could play with anybody in the country. 2015 started in uncertainty for the program: they were breaking in a new coach, a new system, and in their