

Mr. Koonce was born in Donaldville, Georgia and grew up in Newark, New Jersey. He moved to Los Angeles in early adulthood to work with Van Vorse Mattress Company and later became a successful entrepreneur.

He was devoted to his family and to his community. He married the late Barbara Talley and they had three sons. He also had a daughter. He raised his family in the Vermont Knolls neighborhood of South Los Angeles, where he quickly took on positions of leadership. He served as President of the Vermont Knolls—81st Street Block Club many times over the course of nearly five decades.

He worked to build partnerships that would contribute to improving the area, including with the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), the city council office, and later with the Community Coalition for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (CoCo).

I came to know him as he took active roles in CoCo programs such as the Greater Resources through Organizing and Work (GROW) Project. Mr. Koonce helped win changes in grocery store health and safety practices, such as selling expired meat and wilted produce in South L.A. stores. He also fought to beautify the area and calm traffic, making it nicer and safer to walk in the neighborhood.

As a result of his efforts he was selected to take part in the Neighborhood Leadership Program of the prestigious Coro Southern California Leadership Center, further enhancing his skills. He was also chosen to sit on the LAPD Community Police Advisory Board and was recognized repeatedly by LAPD for his work to improve safety and solve problems.

Never afraid to put in hard work, Mr. Koonce would not settle for less than he thought his community deserved. He will be deeply missed, and my heart is with his family and friends as they gather to honor his memory.

RECOGNIZING THE GIVE CENTER

HON. JODY B. HICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 11, 2016

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the leadership and volunteer efforts of the GIVE Center on its 20th anniversary. Located in Milledgeville, Georgia, the GIVE Center connects Georgia College & State University students with volunteer opportunities to help make a difference on campus and throughout the local, state, national, and international communities. In two short decades through the GIVE Center, students have completed 650,000 volunteer hours, participated in 140,000 service projects, and contributed \$15,000,000 of service to the community.

With the help of 150 student organizations, 236 community partners, 245 volunteer programs, and countless helping hands, the GIVE Center has established itself as a pillar of humble service. The servant-leadership and community engagement that are displayed by the faculty, staff, students, and volunteers at the GIVE Center are inspirational, and I am honored to have a place of such excellence and achievement in the 10th District of Georgia.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ESSROC CEMENT

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 11, 2016

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to bring to the House's attention the 150th Anniversary of ESSROC Cement, a company deeply rooted in the foundation of Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley.

In 1866, David O. Saylor, a resident of Allentown, purchased 30 acres of property in Coplay, PA. He, along with Esias Rehrig and Adam Woolever, chartered the Coplay Cement Company. Saylor, an innovator, developed a process that allowed Portland type cement to be made in the United States. Saylor patented the process, and by 1900, Coplay Cement was providing over 70 percent of the Portland Cement used in America.

Coplay Cement provided the material that became the building blocks of the massive infrastructure expansion and city-building that occurred in post-Civil War America.

Paris-based Ciments Francais ultimately acquired Coplay Cement in 1976.

The 1990s were a time of great activity for the company. It adopted the ESSROC name in 1990. In 1992, Italcementi became ESSROC's parent company.

Now, 150 years later, ESSROC has operations across four continents. In North America, the Nazareth-based company has the ability to produce over 6.5 million metric tons of cement annually. To this day, Saylor Cement remains one of their main product lines.

ESSROC has demonstrated itself as an impressive business, based not only on its corporate metrics, but more importantly on its commitment to the greater Lehigh Valley. ESSROC is a valued manufacturer in our community, a provider of good jobs with good wages, and a respected corporate citizen.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to offer my congratulations to the men and women who work at ESSROC both in the Lehigh Valley area and across the United States. May they enjoy continued prosperity.

TRIBUTE TO MSGT JAMES ROBERT HAYWORTH

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 11, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate MSgt James Robert Hayworth of Bondurant, Iowa, for his retirement on March 29, 2016 after nearly 30 years in the United States Air Force and Iowa Air National Guard, 132nd Wing, Des Moines.

MSgt Hayworth entered the United States Air Force in May 1986, receiving his basic military training at Lackland AFB, San Antonio, Texas, beginning his extensive, successful career within the United States military. His service gave him the opportunity to travel across our great nation and around the world. After completing basic military training, MSgt Hayworth was assigned to the 55th Services Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base in Bellevue,

NE. From there he came to Iowa, serving in the 132nd Combat Support Squadron at the Iowa Air National Guard Base in Des Moines. His first overseas deployment was during Operation Provide Comfort, where he was stationed at the Air Base Wing of Incirlik Air Base, Adana, Turkey. MSgt Hayworth returned to the United States where he served in various roles until his next deployment overseas in 2009, supporting the 432nd Maintenance Group and our military efforts from the Joint Base Balad in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He later returned to Iowa, completing his career with the Iowa Air National Guard.

Mr. Speaker, MSgt Hayworth's unyielding commitment to his country is a true testament to his patriotism. I am honored to represent him in the United States Congress. We will never be able to thank him enough for the sacrifices he has made in order to keep our country safe. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in thanking him for his service, congratulating him on his retirement and wishing him nothing but continued success and happiness.

COMMEMORATING THE PASSAGE OF THE HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION RECONCILIATION ACT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 11, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the passage of the empowering "Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act."

Over the past three decades, the average tuition at a public, four-year college institution has more than tripled, while the typical family's income has become plateaued.

This great struggle pitting the interests of the banks and financial institutions against those of vulnerable students finally came to an end on March 30, 2010, when President Barack Obama signed this legislation into law.

This law reinvested savings back into education by upgrading community colleges facilities, increasing Pell Grants, and making it easier for responsible students to pay off their loans.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Serving Institutions in this nation were resultantly able to receive a needed benefit.

For new borrowers after 2014, student loans are eligible to be forgiven after 20 years to those making timely payments, down from the previous 25 year requirement.

This law also has helped parents invest in their children's education by simplifying the federal education loan borrowing process.

Specifically, in my home city of Houston, Texas, this legislation has helped many of the 9,700 students currently attending the prestigious HBCU, Texas Southern University, alongside the 42,704 students attending the University of Houston.

During my time serving our country, I have fought to make higher education accessible to all who strive to achieve it.

That is why I am proud to have stood with 220 of my colleagues in voting "yea" in support of this legislation.