

united as a watch-care member from Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church under the pastorate of Reverend Jeffery Stegall. Again, she relocated to Louisville, KY where she united with Community Baptist Church under the pastorate of Reverend William T. Shoemaker.

Mrs. Smith-Owens lived a long industrious, hard working life. For many years, she labored as an agriculturalist and a cook at Double Quick Store No. 19 in Lexington, MS for 16 years and she gave true light to the phrase "Be the job large or small do it well or not at all." She retired from public work in 1989 and enjoyed traveling throughout the United States with her children.

Mrs. Smith-Owens was preceded in death by: her beloved mother, Ruby Walker; father, Johnny Winston; spouses: Fred Smith and Jerry L. Owens; two daughters: Mildred Smith, and Patsie Williams; two sons: Andrew Smith and John Smith; two granddaughters: Jacqueline Campbell-Jones and Racine Smith; one step-son, Lathan Jefferson; three brothers: Louis Stuart, Jesse Castel and Melvin; seven sisters: Ora, Eliza, Ida, Vivian, Lottie, Lela Mae, and Cora; and two son-in-laws: Charles Smith and Roy Williams.

Mrs. Smith-Owens leaves to rejoice her legacy and cherish her memories: four children: Richard (Burnette) Smith, Myron Smith, Dorothy Williams of Jackson, MS and Regina Commodore of Louisville, KY; two step-daughters: Geraldine Owens and Debbie Horton of Chicago, IL; three sisters: Julie (Jack) Greer of Lexington, MS, Thelma (Samuel) Greene, and Gertrude (Charles) Green of Chicago, IL; twenty six (26) grandchildren; a host of great-grandchildren, great-great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, a multitude of cousins and a legion of friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the legacy of Mrs. Juanita Winston Smith-Owens for her life and works to be remembered.

MAJOR GENERAL H. MICHAEL
EDWARDS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major General H. Michael Edwards, The Adjutant General of the State of Colorado, for his combined service of more than 44 years in the United States Air Force and the Colorado National Guard.

Major General Edwards' remarkable service to our state and our nation is much appreciated. His leadership skills were evident even as a cadet attending the United States Air Force Academy; transitioning to Student pilot while attending Undergraduate Pilot Training. He continued to hone his flying skills, serving a distinguished career flying various aircraft from the T-38 to the F-4s. Major General Edwards' command expertise was showcased as he rose through the ranks, becoming commander of the 140th Wing, Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado, and as the Director of the Combined Air Operations Center, Al Udeid Air Base, State of Qatar. His honorable military career is significant, culminating in the selection and service as The Adjutant General, Colorado National Guard.

Major General Edwards has also advised my office on military and National Guard matters and assisted in a number of medal and service recognition ceremonies. His congenial manner, yet focused approach to his command has led to admiration and respect by all Coloradans.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Major General H. Michael Edwards for his dedication, commitment and service to our community, state and nation.

QUESTIONING THE RUSSIAN
CONNECTION

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2017

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, first let me thank Congresswoman JAYAPAL and Congressman RASKIN for their tireless work to protect our democracy.

I also want to thank the fearless leaders of the CPC, Congressman KEITH ELLISON and Congressman RAUL GRIJALVA for organizing this Special Order Hour and for leading the fight for the integrity of our republic.

Mr. Speaker, we're here today to shine a light on the deceit and corruption taking place at the White House. For months, we've known that Russia meddled in our election to benefit Donald Trump's campaign.

In fact, even before the election, 17 intelligence agencies all concluded that the influence came from the highest levels of the Kremlin. The reality of this unprecedented interference is outrageous and appalling.

But even more disturbing than the fact of foreign actors meddling, has been the response of our Commander-in-Chief. President Trump stacked his campaign, and then his Administration, with officials who benefited both financially and personally from Russian ties.

Now, instead of calling for a bipartisan independent investigation into Russia's influence, President Trump has heaped praise on Vladimir Putin and undermined the ongoing investigations.

Amid all of the evidence pointing to Russian interference to benefit President Trump, one question remains.

Why has the President not taken this national security issue seriously? Over the past 60 days we have learned the answer to that question. A steady stream of revelations has shown what we've suspected all along. President Trump's cozy relationship with Russia warrants a bipartisan independent investigation. Nearly every week, the ties and lies that exist between President Trump and the Russians have led the news cycle.

Former Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort stepped down during the campaign after reports of his murky financial dealings with Russia became public. Michael Flynn was forced to resign after news reports confirmed he lied about contacts with the Russians during and after the campaign.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions lied under oath to conceal meetings he had with Russian officials while on the campaign. And, just this week, we learned that President Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner had questionable financial links to Russia that warrant a Senate investigation.

The web of ties and lies gets murkier by the day. As these improprieties come to light, President Trump peddles increasingly desperate conspiracy theories in an attempt to distract from the truth.

Mr. Speaker, enough is enough. The American people are demanding that the truth about this Administration be exposed.

They deserve to know every last detail concerning Putin's involvement in our election; ties that exist between Trump allies and Putin officials; and exactly what knowledge President Trump had of Russian actions during the campaign.

Clearly, Republicans have proved that they are incapable of leading such an investigation. Just this week, we've watched the Chairman of the Intelligence Committee be caught up in this cloud of corruption. Congressman DEVIN NUNES, a former executive board member on Trump's transition team, is too compromised by the Trump Administration to lead this investigation. Congressman NUNES' conflicts of interest clearly demonstrate he cannot be trusted to conduct the investigation.

Mr. Speaker, the list is endless. He has withheld information from Members of the Intel Committee; shared critical information with the President, the subject of the investigation, without alerting his counterparts on the committee, including the Ranking Member, ADAM SCHIFF. Mislead the American people with scant details of his sources. Not to mention, he helped develop President Trump's national security plan on the campaign.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman DEVIN NUNES has lost the confidence of the American people. He needs to step down immediately from Chair of the Intelligence Committee.

Mr. Speaker, the corruption shrouding this Administration undermines our national security and makes us less safe. So the only solution here is an independent investigation to reveal the extent of President Trump's personal, political and financial ties to Russia.

I urge my colleagues to support this commission. This has gone far beyond partisan politics. This is about the character of our nation and the independence of our democracy. The American people deserve to know the truth about the troubling links that exist between President Trump and Putin's Russia.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FRESNO
COUNTY FARM BUREAU

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2017

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fresno County Farm Bureau in celebration of its 100 year anniversary of advocating for agriculture on behalf of the Central Valley.

The Fresno County Farm Bureau has been dedicated to bringing farmers and ranchers together to promote agriculture in the Central Valley since 1917. The organization was started by George Feaver, J.A. Poytress, Sam Heisinger, H.W. Wrightson, Charles Parlier, and Leroy Smith. Leroy Smith was the first Extension Service farm advisor assigned to Fresno County, which spurred his desire to initiate the Fresno County Branch.

The Fresno County Farm Bureau is one of fifty-three county Farm Bureaus, and represents over four thousand members. The

members include farmers, ranchers, and dairy producers who put food on Americans' dinner table every night. As a voice for agriculture, the organization has a goal of preserving California's fresh, local, and diverse agrarian culture for generations to come. It also leads the industry in addressing issues that result in long-term viability for agriculture through political action, community outreach, and public education. The Farm Bureau achieves their goal of advocating for the Central Valley by promoting economic vitality of the region through the work of its members.

The Fresno County Farm Bureau has been known to encourage all citizens to be supportive and appreciative of the incredible contribution farmers, ranchers, and farm workers make daily to the Central Valley community and economy.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Fresno County Farm Bureau on 100 years of contributions to our country and our Valley's agriculture industry. We commemorate the service of all the members of this organization who have worked collectively to improve, protect, and promote agriculture in the San Joaquin Valley, which has now become one of the breadbaskets of our nation. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the incredible contribution our farmers and ranchers make to the Central Valley community and our nation's economy.

HONORING NATIONAL PET DAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2017

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Pet Day, which takes place every year on April 11th. While loving our pets is something we do every day, National Pet Day encourages us to give special care to pets who may not get that extra attention. This day was founded in 2006 by Pet and Family Lifestyle Expert and Animal Welfare Advocate Colleen Paige, to help raise public awareness about the plight of many different kinds of animals. This is a common sentiment among animal rights activists, and I want to give recognition to all the organizations we have worked with personally in the mission to protect our beloved pets. The Animal Hope and Wellness Foundation, the Humane Society of the United States, and Social Compassion in Legislation have worked extensively to better the lives of our four-legged friends. Together, we introduced H.R. 1406, the Dog and Cat Meat Trade Prohibition Act of 2017, which prohibits the slaughter and trade of dogs and cats for human consumption in the United States.

On January 6, 2017, I reintroduced H. Res. 30—Condemning the Dog Meat Festival in Yulin, China, and urging China to end the dog meat trade. This horrific festival dates back to 2009 through 2010, when it was launched by dog meat traders as a commercial enterprise to boost flagging sales of dog meat. More than 10,000 dogs are reported to be captured, transported and slaughtered every year for this Dog Meat festival, with more than 10 million dogs killed annually in China for the dog meat trade. Animal welfare groups have found that a number of these dogs are stolen pets

taken from their homes, still wearing their collars when they reach the slaughterhouse. Many dogs die during transport to the slaughterhouses after days or weeks without food or water, and others suffer illness and injury during transport, such as broken bones. These dogs suffer mentally from watching other dogs being disemboweled and blow-torched in front of them.

Yulin's dog slaughter takes place in residential areas and public marketplaces, imposing scenes of extreme animal cruelty on local residents, including young children who may, as a result, suffer psychological trauma and desensitization. The capture, transport, and butchering of dogs and the consumption of dog meat poses a risk to human health by exposing people to a multitude of diseases, including rabies and cholera. This practice, in my opinion, is completely unacceptable, and can be stopped by the diligent efforts of members of the Chinese government. Although the Yulin city government withdrew as a sponsor of the Dog Meat Festival, it has taken no meaningful action to enforce China's existing laws and regulations on animal disease control, food safety, trans-provincial dog transport, or youth protection, all of which are breached by the dog meat trade.

Activists from across the globe have continued the fight against this barbaric practice. I have been honored to work with Humane Society International, the Animal Hope and Wellness Foundation, the Vanderpump Dog Foundation, Duo Duo, the Animal Welfare Institute, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), Citizens Lobbyists for H. Res. 30, as well as countless other organizations to bring awareness and hopefully change to this inhumane practice and torture of dogs.

Next month, I will be introducing a resolution denouncing the global dog meat trade, by urging all countries that allow this cruel and barbaric practice to end it once and for all. Furthermore, in the lead up to the Yulin Dog Meat Festival and after the introduction of my global dog meat trade resolution, I do plan on holding another Congressional Briefing on Capitol Hill to provide an opportunity for animal rights activists to speak on behalf of the voiceless.

I also want to recognize and thank the animal welfare organizations in Palm Beach and Broward Counties, whose tireless efforts each and every single day are to be commended. In Palm Beach, the Animal Rescue Force South Florida; Peggy Adams; Palm Beach County Animal Care & Control; Justin Bartlett; Second Chance; Big Dog Ranch Rescue; Gaisha, Tundra & Spirit's Place Husky Rescue; Adopt a Cat Foundation; Tri-County Animal Rescue; South Florida Rabbit Rescue, and the Everglades Golden Retriever Rescue. In Broward County, the Florida Humane Society, Humane Society of Broward County; Broward County Animal Care and Adoption Center, Animal Aid, Inc.; and Abandoned Pet Rescue.

The work that all of these organizations do for animals is truly heartwarming and the lengths that they go to ensure their welfare is inspiring. National Pet Day reminds us to do all that we can to make certain animals are taken care of everywhere. Whether it is taking supplies to animal shelters, volunteering, helping a friend with his or her pets who is recovering from an illness, or adopting a pet.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of National Pet Day, I once again want to reiterate my heartfelt gratitude to those who have dedicated their

lives to help, protect, and save animals not only here in the United States, but also across the globe.

MITCHELL MONTALVO INVITED TO JOIN NATIONAL SOCIETY OF COLLEGIATE SCHOLARS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mitchell Montalvo of Katy, TX, for being invited to join the National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS).

Mitchell is studying computer engineering at the University of Houston, where he accepted a full scholarship from the U.S. Air Force. Membership to NSCS is by invitation only and based on a student's class standing and grade-point average. NSCS is part of the Association of College Honor Societies and is the only interdisciplinary honors organization for first and second year college students in the country. After graduating, Mitchell plans to enter the Air Force as a second lieutenant, specializing in cyber warfare.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Mitchell Montalvo for his invitation to join NSCS. We are very proud of him and look forward to his future service to our country.

HONORING WILLIE WHITE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Willie White, who is an Educator, a Leader and Public Servant.

Willie is a native of Canton, MS, where he and his older brother, Booker T. Jones, grew up and were raised by their grandparents. He is the second oldest child of Earl Jones and Lonnie B. White Bratton. In the late forties, both parents relocated to different Northern states, married and other siblings were born. The 68 year old, credits his stern grandparents for him becoming the man he is today.

After receiving his Elementary and High School education from the Madison County Public School District, he entered Alcorn State University in the fall of 1967 on a track scholarship. To avoid being drafted by the Army or the Marine Corp after receiving draft notices from both, he joined the Navy in 1970, where he served for twenty-one years on active duty and ten years reserved duty. During this time he served three tours in the Vietnam War. Because of his brave and heroic acts, he was inducted into the San Diego Aerospace Museum Hall of Champions in Balboa Park in San Diego, CA in 1989, along with receiving numerous other medals and awards.

Willie retired from the military in 1990 and began working as a Logistic Management Specialist for Naval Air Technical Data and Engineering Service Command (NATEC), which is a department of the defense supporting the war fighters. During this time, he graduated from Defense Acquisition University, San Diego, CA.