

every field of human endeavor—the day I joined Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated.

Today I am proud as I see brothers in their red blazers walk these hallowed Halls, bringing their professional expertise and wisdom gained through experience and passion for their communities to Washington, D.C., the Nation, and the world.

REMEMBERING FORMER BOULDER CITY MAYOR ROBERT STANLEY FERRARO

(Ms. ROSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and commemorate the life of Robert Stanley Ferraro, a pillar in our community and one of the longest serving public officials in Nevada history who passed away last week at the age of 81.

Robert Ferraro served on the Boulder City Council for 31 years and was Boulder City's first elected mayor, and successfully stood for election nine times. He knocked on every voter's door and provided leadership to one of the most unique communities in our State.

Bob led the effort to maintain Boulder City's character as a special community and to be the clean, green Boulder City that many of my constituents call home and thousands visit each year.

He was named Nevada Public Official of the Year in 1986, Community Leader of the Year in 2001, and led a life that was a true American success story coming from humble beginnings to being one of the great civic leaders of our State.

Bob will be greatly missed, and my thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends today.

HONORING THE LIFE OF REVEREND DR. NORMAN LEE ROBINSON

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Reverend Dr. N.L. Robinson, the longtime pastor of Mount Olive Baptist Church who passed away last Friday.

Reverend Robinson proudly served our Nation in the Army during World War II and was honorably discharged on November 25, 1945. It was during his time of service that he found spiritual enlightenment in Jesus Christ and his passion to serve the community.

After leaving the Army, Reverend Robinson worked for the Dallas Housing Authority from 1946 until he retired in 1976.

A graduate of the Southern Bible Institute of Dallas, Dr. Robinson began his ministry at St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Grand Prairie in 1962, and he was also the pastor very

briefly at the Lucille Baptist Church in Palmer, Texas, before joining Mount Olive in 1966.

Under his guidance, Mount Olive grew to become a 12,000-member church. I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, that everybody, from the workers that built the cars at the General Motors plant in Arlington to one of the past mayors of Arlington, has been a member at that church throughout time.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Reverend N.L. Robinson, whose spiritual leadership touched so many lives in the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington community.

□ 1230

SMALL BUSINESSES ARE THE ECONOMIC ENGINES OF OUR ECONOMY

(Ms. ADAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, small businesses are the economic engines of our economy.

There are over 800,000 small businesses in North Carolina, generating \$800 million annually, accounting for half of all private sector employment in our State, and regularly creating more than 20,000 jobs a year.

We have seen a 38 percent increase in minority-owned businesses in the last decade, and across the U.S., 85 million people rely on 25 million small businesses for employment.

As vice ranking member of the Small Business Committee and ranking member on the Investigations, Oversight and Regulations Subcommittee, I recognize the impact that small businesses have on our communities. Lawmakers must continue to encourage innovation and support legislation that allows local companies to grow.

I am proud to introduce the Score Act of 2017 during the 54th annual National Small Business Week, legislation that authorizes the SCORE program, connecting experienced businessowners with budding entrepreneurs for advice and mentorship, and it ensures its funding for at least 3 years.

Small businesses make the American Dream possible, and I am committed to standing up and speaking out on their behalf.

KAPPAS DAY ON THE HILL

(Mr. MCEACHIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCEACHIN. Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise today to recognize my brothers of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated, during the annual James "Biff" Carter Kappas on Capitol Hill Legislative Policy Conference.

Each year, my brothers come to Capitol Hill with their crimson blazers to raise awareness around the key issues that affect our communities.

I had the privilege of joining this noble clan of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated, right here in Washington, D.C., at American University, where we chartered the Kappa Chi chapter of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. It was in the fall of 1980 that I was allowed to cross the burning sands and commit myself to a life of honorable achievement in every field of human endeavor.

Mr. Speaker, today I am proud because now, more than ever, we need the leaders in our communities to raise their voices, raise awareness, and come to Washington, D.C., as advocates on behalf of their communities, as it says in the First Amendment, "to petition the government for a redress of their grievances."

I am proud of the brothers of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated, for coming to Congress today, as they do each spring.

DISCRIMINATION IS WRONG

(Mr. POLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to help bring forth the Equality Act, with 194 original cosponsors on both sides of the aisle. The principle behind the Equality Act is simple: discrimination is wrong, no matter what form it takes, no matter who it targets.

This is a principle that Americans overwhelmingly choose to embrace and live by. We see it in the way we treat our LGBT employees, friends, neighbors, and family. It is apparent in the outpouring of joy and celebration we witnessed at the Supreme Court's historic marriage equality ruling 2 years ago.

But sadly, our laws have not yet caught up with our values. It is still legal in a majority of States to fire somebody just because they are gay. That is not just a theoretical concern. It means real harm and real hardship for countless Americans.

For LGBT Americans who are fired or turned away from a doctor's office or told they are not wanted in their neighborhood, many of them have nowhere to go for legal recourse. We are better than that as a nation. It is time we showed that.

We are a nation that prides ourselves on our commitment to equality under the law. So I call upon this Congress to pass the Equality Act and put an end to legal discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans once and for all.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce: