

within the community. With the cost for this memorial totaling around \$240,000, this major undertaking clearly demonstrates the commitment of these citizens to bringing honor and distinction to the Disabled Veterans of Missouri and the United States. The memorial not only honors the Disabled Veterans that served so proudly, but also honors Prisoners of War and those who are Missing in Action. Additionally, this memorial is endorsed by the National Paralyzed Veterans of America and the Franklin County Disabled Veterans of America.

I ask you to join me in recognizing the Disabled Veterans Memorial in Union, Missouri. This memorial will show the gratitude we feel as a nation for those who have worn the uniform and sacrificed so much for this great nation.

HONORING AUDREY NIXON

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a dedicated public servant and dear friend, Audrey Nixon, who passed away at the age of 81.

Since 1982, Audrey tirelessly served the communities of Waukegan, North Chicago, Park City, and Gurnee with distinction and grace as a member of the Lake County Board.

She was known and universally admired as the matriarch of the Lake County Board—not just for her tenure, which was longer than any other member—but for her ability to bridge the divides of partisan politics and bring out the best in her colleagues, working together for the residents of Lake County.

Audrey was a fierce advocate for her constituents, determinedly promoting diversity, inclusion, and opportunity.

She was the long-time chair of the Law and Judicial Committee, where she exercised her passion and commitment to civil justice for all.

She was an energetic supporter of YouthBuild, which has helped countless young adults complete their education, get needed counseling, and learn critical job skills to put them on the path to success.

Thanks to Audrey, future generations to come will continue to enjoy the beauty and serenity of Greenbelt Forest Preserve.

Audrey is survived by her three children and twenty grandchildren.

She will be fondly remembered and sorely missed by her many friends, her congregation at Christian Valley Missionary Baptist Church in North Chicago, and the myriad constituents whose lives she touched through her decades of service to Lake County.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE OF COMMANDER DONALD “HOPPY” HANSON

HON. DAVID A. TROTT

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Mr. TROTT. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in recognition of the service of Commander Don-

ald “Hoppy” Hanson of Novi, Michigan and in celebration of his 93rd birthday.

Serving in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, Commander Hanson served his country valiantly, defending our nation’s fundamental principles of freedom and democracy around the world.

He has been an unwavering defender of liberty, and it is thanks to him that we have the privilege to live in the greatest country in the world.

Commander Hanson represents the best of our great country. He’s a strong believer in the traditions built by Americans before him, but he never lost sight of the future of our nation.

As a Livonia school teacher for 20 years, he nurtured the promise of every generation to come, enriching the minds of the next generation, the future of a nation he fought so courageously to preserve.

Today, I echo an eternally grateful nation in thanking Commander Hanson for his devout service and in celebration of his 93rd birthday.

HONORING RANDI KLABER

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, those who give their time and effort in service to their community have the ability to make a truly positive, lasting impact. For the Westchester Jewish Center, no one has made a greater impact than Randi Klaber, who this year is being honored at the organization’s 66th Annual Spring Gala.

Randi Klaber joined Westchester Jewish Center in 1992 and is a longtime WJC Trustee and a past WJC Officer. As a two time Sisterhood President she helped revitalize this essential organization for the women in the community. Randi is involved in committees as varied as Musical Enrichment, Gala planning and the interior design of the building. She has been involved in several search committees and helps care for seniors in our community.

Randi is an Interior Designer and freelance graphic designer by trade. She’s an oil painter and member of the Mamaroneck Artists’ Guild. She brings her artistry skills to WJC as well. She has designed advertising materials and logos and a painting that hangs in the memorial chapel.

Randi has been instrumental in building WJC into a revered and vibrant center of our Jewish lives. Randi has played an important role in the lives of 500 member families who call WJC their second home.

There is no doubt that the entire Westchester Jewish Center community is better off thanks to the work and efforts of Randi. On this special occasion, I want to personally congratulate her on receiving this well-deserved recognition and thank her for all she has done in the community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN GIVING BACK

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to use this time to recognize the 10th Anniversary of Women Giving Back, a local non-profit organization in Virginia’s 10th District dedicated to helping women and children less fortunate. Women Giving Back focuses on providing homeless women and children in crisis with appropriate clothing to boost their confidence and self-esteem as they attempt to enter the workforce or fit in at school. On the second Saturday of each month, the Women Giving Back store, in Sterling, Virginia, opens its doors to hundreds of homeless women and children, allowing them to shop from its donated collection completely free of charge.

Women Giving Back was founded in 2007 as a program of HomeAid NoVA, a non-profit that, since 2001, has completed over 100 projects, building and renovating housing and shelter facilities across Northern Virginia. In 2015, Women Giving Back established their own non-profit, separating from HomeAid NoVA, however the two organizations still work together, helping thousands receive both clothing and shelter each year.

Since its inception, Women Giving Back has distributed over 500,000 items to more than 23,000 women and 15,300 children from over 100 shelters across Northern Virginia. Today, potential shoppers work with case managers at Women Giving Back to determine their eligibility and schedule times to shop, and once they are approved, qualified shoppers can obtain up to 50 clothing items per month. To support this large-scale monthly program, throughout the year staff and volunteers sort clothing, coordinate clothing drives, conduct community outreach, and fundraise. The arduous process, which the staff and volunteers undertake to serve the shoppers, is a true testament to the generosity, hard work, and dedication of the volunteers and staff at Women Giving Back.

One annual fundraiser that has garnered a great deal of popularity and community involvement is the Cinco De Mayo event, which helps the organization sustain its store program throughout the year. It is entertaining, forward thinking, community events, like the Cinco De Mayo event, that have helped the organization thrive and maintain its strong presence in our community for the past 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in recognizing the 10th Anniversary of Women Giving Back and in thanking them for their commitment and service to our community. The efforts and contributions from the staff, volunteers, corporate sponsors, and our community are truly exemplary, and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF LARRY HARRIS RECEIVING THE LIBERTY BELL AWARD

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Larry Harris for receiving the Cabarrus County Bar Association Liberty Bell Award.

A native of North Carolina's 8th District, Larry grew up in Kannapolis, where he attended Winecoff High School and served as the senior class president before pursuing a history degree at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He then enlisted in the US Marine Corps from 1961–1963 where he received outstanding marks as a Rifleman. After finishing his service, Larry attended Wake Forest Law School, graduating in 1965 before going on to practice law for 51 years in Cabarrus County.

During his more than five decades in the legal field, Mr. Harris served in nearly every leadership role imaginable. He served as President of the Cabarrus County Bar Association, and was active with the NC Bar Association, NC Academy of Trial Lawyers and the Juvenile Court. Larry also ran for Congress in 1978 and served as the Chairman of the Cabarrus County Republican Party. In addition to all of these activities, Larry found time to serve his community through numerous local civic organizations, serving as the Vice President of the Kannapolis Jaycees and President of the Winecoff Lions Club. He's also been an active Shriner and Mason for decades.

The Liberty Bell Award is presented by the Cabarrus County Bar Association to an individual who educates people on and upholds the laws that support American freedom. Throughout his lifetime of involvement in Cabarrus County, Larry has helped many people maintain their confidence in our judicial system by being a constant resource for anyone in need.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Larry Harris as the Cabarrus County Bar Association Liberty Bell Award recipient and wish him well as he continues to serve our community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF COACH DONALD THOMPSON

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Coach Donald Thompson, the legendary coach of the Pahokee High School Football Team, who sadly passed away on April 10, 2017 at the age of 76. Coach Thompson was born in Harrisburg, Arkansas on Valentine's Day in 1941. He spent his formative years in Pahokee, Florida, where he made friends in classrooms and on the football field, many of whom remained close throughout his life.

Coach Thompson went to college and played nose tackle for the Citadel Bulldogs in Charleston, South Carolina. In his junior year, his team won the Tangerine Bowl. He was

then transferred to the University of Arkansas at Monticello, where he played football for the Boll Weevils and graduated with a degree in education.

After college, Coach Thompson began his career, first in coaching and teaching, then as a regional sales manager for weightlifting companies, before he was offered the head coaching position at Pahokee High School. He coached the Blue Devils from 1984 to 1992, co-founded the famous Muck Bowl, an annual game that draws fans from throughout the Glades area and beyond. Coach Thompson guided his team to the first of many state championships in 1989. For these and many other exemplary accomplishments, on and off the gridiron, he was inducted into the Palm Beach County Sports Hall of Fame in 2008.

Even after he retired from coaching, and despite deteriorating health, he continued to volunteer with the team, cleaning uniforms, fixing helmets and praying with players during practices and games. He loved being a part of the Pahokee High School Football Team and athletic program.

Although he was highly regarded as a football coach, his true passions were his faith, family and friends. His true calling was to be an example to his family and everyone he encountered, especially his fellow congregants at the First United Church of Pahokee, his football players and the children of Pahokee. In "Coach T," many found a man who would happily be the father figure they wanted and needed. His calming voice, caring demeanor and strength of character endeared him to everyone.

Coach Thompson also loved sailing, spending countless hours on the waters of South Florida sailing his beloved Lake Okeechobee with his loving wife of 52 years, Alice, and his family. Coach Donald Thompson was truly one of a kind—a fine sportsman, a real gentleman and a credit to mankind. I was fortunate to know him and call him my friend. He will be dearly missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. HARRISON'S 3RD GRADE CLASS

HON. DAVID A. TROTT

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Mr. TROTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bright young artists in Mrs. Harrison's 3rd grade class at Plymouth Christian Academy in Canton, Michigan.

I know that artists get their start long before high school and college, learning to expand their imagination and foster their creativity in classrooms just like Mrs. Harrison's.

In an effort to highlight young artists from across Michigan's 11th Congressional District, this year, I announced the 1st Annual "Color my Capitol" Program.

Brimming with talent, Mrs. Harrison's students were eager to showcase their amazing artistic skills and take part in this one-of-a-kind program.

Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Harrison's 3rd graders did not disappoint. Their creations are unique, innovative, and imaginative. Their colorful artwork embodies our country's bright and promising future with these sharp young minds leading the way.

It is my utmost honor to have their artwork displayed in my Congressional district office in Troy, Michigan for everyone who visits to enjoy. Each and every time I walk into my office, I am reminded of their talent.

Congratulations to Mrs. Harrison and the young artists she has the pleasure of teaching.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HAMILTON COUNTY PARKS

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department on the occasion of their 50th Anniversary. For the last half century, the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department has enriched our community. Their greatly successful mission to provide high-quality parks and facilities, to be a leader in natural resource education and services, and as an excellent resource for our community and its citizens has made Hamilton County one of the best places to live in Indiana and in the United States. Thank you to the Staff and the Hamilton County Commissioners who have served with distinction and have carried out the mission of the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department. The people of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District are forever grateful for the contributions to our Hoosier community, and it is my distinct privilege to honor the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department today.

Founded in 1967, Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department ordinance was established on March 11, 1967. The ordinance was filed May 1, 1967 in the office of Auditor John Randall. The inaugural board of directors were appointed for a two-year term beginning in 1968. Board meetings were held at the Commissioner's Court in The Hamilton County Court House, located in Noblesville. The founding Board members included: Henry Burcher as President, Jerry Barr as Secretary, Floyd Overdorf as a Member, and Paul Wheeler as a Member. Thanks to the foresight of the inaugural Board members, for the last 50 years we have had an excellent park system that has enriched the lives of our residents here in Hamilton County and all those who have visited.

The Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department created its first park in 1970 after acquiring Potter's Bridge in Noblesville. Today the Parks Department oversees eleven parks: Bray Family Homestead Park, Cool Creek Park and Nature Center, Coxhall Gardens, Geist Park, Lafayette Trace Park, Morse Park & Beach, Potter's Bridge Park, River Road Park, Riverwood Canoe Landing, Rookery Preserve, and Strawtown Koteewi Park. Each park has a unique experience to offer, and has brought fun and joy to the citizens and families of Hamilton County and to all those who visit. Nature trails, bird watching, water sports, natural history, archery, and many other great activities make our Parks in Hamilton County world class. In addition to the thousands of acres of land to oversee, the Parks Department also offers workshops, school programs, and facilities.