

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and the more than 730,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District, in extending our sincerest congratulations to Mrs. Eunice L. Mixon for receiving the title of 2018 Distinguished Older Georgian and for her many years of service to her community, state, and nation.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, this February marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of a truly great American, Mr. Frederick Douglass. Having been born into slavery as Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey in Talbot County, Maryland, Mr. Douglass never knew his real birthday. He often lamented that he had only a few, shadowy memories of his mother, who would walk miles at night to visit him as a child, and then walk back home to be in the fields before sunrise. Yet that little boy would grow up into a brave young man, who taught himself to read and write, and successfully escaped slavery on his third attempt. He would marry Anna, the love of his life, and remain married to her until her death. He was a devoted father to all five of their children. While still a fugitive slave, he would write the first of three autobiographies: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*, which remains one of the greatest books ever written in the English language. Mr. Douglass was a deeply courageous American who never shied away from confronting evil, even at great personal risk. He became a world-renowned orator in the cause of abolition, laying bare the horrors of slavery and helping to end that cursed institution in America once and for all. He began and edited his own abolitionist newspaper, *The North Star*. He successfully published his paper until slavery ended, despite opposition and persecution from other abolitionists. He met with and served as an advisor to President Lincoln during the Civil War, and did not hesitate to confront the President directly over the treatment of African American soldiers in the Union Army. After the Civil War ended, Douglass served four more presidents, fighting to end racial segregation and to get African Americans and women the right to vote. For his entire life, he worked tirelessly to bring justice to the oppressed and to call America to live out its highest ideals, reminding us that "The life of the nation is secure only while the nation is honest, truthful, and virtuous." I would also like to recognize two great organizations that have been founded to continue Mr. Douglass' legacy of faith-based activism, moral courage and clarity, and family devotion. The Frederick Douglass Foundation was founded in 2009 by Dr. Timothy Johnson, Mr. Troy Rolling and Rev. Dean Nelson to engage and recruit black activists, community leaders to become members of the Republican Party. The organization has thousands of members and chapters in over 15 states. The Douglass Leadership Institute, founded in 2015 by Rev. Dean Nelson, a non-partisan organization which educates, equips and empowers faith-based leaders to embrace and

apply biblical principles to life. Both organizations are committed to Righteousness, Justice, Liberty and Virtue.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HARRISBURG

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the First Baptist Church of Harrisburg, IL.

The church was established on February 15, 1868. The first meetings were held at the Harrisburg Courthouse.

The Church is located in the Saline county seat. Because of the strength and character of its members, the First Baptist Church possesses both a rich history and a vibrant future. They are commemorating their 150th anniversary with a special celebration on Saturday, February 17. Beginning at 1:00 PM, there will be a video presentation, an organ concert, a quartet singing, a beard judging, a historical fashion show, and a dessert and pie social at the end. I am honored to recognize such a strong community of faith in my district.

I look forward to the continued prosperity of the First Baptist Church in Harrisburg for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING GRABUONE OUTFITTERS FOR THEIR HIT SHOW "MISSISSIPPI SNAKE GRABBERS"

HON. GREGG HARPER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, Scott County, Mississippi is home to a one-of-a-kind hobby, known as snake-grabbing. Pioneered by a group of men who are known as "Grabuone Outfitters," this hobby has become a way of life, a business venture, and a hit television show by the title of Mississippi Snake Grabbers.

The snake-catching venture's roots started in 1990 when a group of men from Scott County began traveling to Lake St John, Louisiana, for an annual fishing trip. On this trip, one of the fishermen, Jimmie Nichols, reached over his buddy Rayford Palmer, grabbed a snake off a limb, and pulled it into their boat. This began a tradition of catching snakes that continues to this day.

A few years later the stories of the snake-catching excursions piqued the interest of others, including Joey Mayes, Joey Rigby, and Shane Gibson, whose boat quickly became known as the Snake Boat, and it was during that time the small group of four started calling themselves "Grabuone Outfitters."

The group began videoing their snake hunts and attracted even more attention, and that is when Brad Vincent and Brent Shorter were added to the group. Brent had originally been hired to video Snake Hunt Mississippi Style Volume II, but after his first trip on the water, the team had its sixth member.

The men of Grabuone Outfitters were able to turn their hobby into an honest to goodness business, taking folks from all walks of life onto the lake to experience a thrill like no other. It is my unique honor to recognize Grabuone Outfitters for their hit television show Mississippi Snake Grabbers, and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING STAN COBURN

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Mr. BANKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Stan Coburn of Fort Wayne, Indiana. Stan recently surpassed his 50th year of employment at the USPS. Stan joined the USPS in 1968, only to be drafted into the Marines shortly thereafter. He served as a helicopter machine gunner during the conflict in Vietnam, then returned to his position at the Post Office one year later.

During his career, Stan has been stationed at every Post Office in the Fort Wayne area, and has worked every shift available. Stan has said that he still feels like he has another five years of service left in him.

Northeast Indiana is thankful for Stan's many years of service and commitment to our community. In fact, February 6, 2018, was Stan Coburn Day in Fort Wayne. I would like to show appreciation to Stan for his dedication to Hoosiers in my district, and congratulate him on reaching this milestone.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHARLIE SPANO, UNICAN OF THE YEAR FOR THE UNICO SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Charlie Spano, who has been named the UNICAN of the Year by the Scranton Chapter of UNICO National for their 59th annual charity ball on February 24, 2018.

Before his retirement in 2005, Charlie Spano taught elementary students in the Scranton School District. He received a Master of Science in elementary administration with certification from the University of Scranton and a Bachelor of Science in education and history from Wilkes University. He also served as director of the Bureau of Community and Student Services for the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Charlie is an active member of his community and has served his neighbors in many capacities throughout the years. He has served as the Deputy Director of voter education for Lackawanna County, assisting in outreach providing information on voting systems; Assistant Manager for Recruiting for the U.S. Census Bureau in Scranton; Chairman of Scranton City Cable Consumer Advisory Commission; a member of the Lincoln Bicentennial Commission of Lackawanna County; a member of the 9-11 Memorial Committee in Lackawanna County; Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Anthracite Heritage Museum