

sweat and toil and tears and blood of ordinary Americans who showed the world it was possible to accomplish extraordinary things.

As we remember and honor the foot soldiers of Selma, let us resolve also to restore the Voting Rights Act of 1965, so that it remains a lasting monument to their heroism and devotion to the country they loved.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF CAPTAIN GEORGE FRANK
MYLES, JR.

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2018

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sadness to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend, Captain George Frank Myles, Jr. George passed away peacefully on March 4, 2018 at the age of 69 in Boca Raton, Florida. He was a husband, father, grandfather, brother, nephew, uncle, friend, and dedicated public servant. George is survived by his wife of 46 years, Jacqueline Williams Myles; their three daughters: Tequisha, Kendyll, and Kersti Myles; one grandchild Savannah; sister, Fossteen Reese (Ellenwood, GA); brother, Michael Myles (Augusta, GA); aunt, Juanita Phillips (Decatur, GA); and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and godchildren.

A native of Augusta, Georgia, George was a star football and basketball player at T.W. Josey High School. Through football, he attended Morris Brown College in Atlanta, GA. In 1970, George graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and a Minor in Psychology. That same year, "Brick" Myles, as he was known on the football field, was drafted by the Miami Dolphins. As his professional football career was beginning, his draft number was called to serve his country. As the first African American to graduate from the Georgia Military Institute's Officers Candidates School in Milledgeville, Georgia, George subsequently joined the Florida National Guard.

In 1971, George went to work for Sears, Roebuck & Co., and became a manager there in 1983. He served as General Manager at the Westside Mall in Miami, and at SearsTown in downtown Fort Lauderdale. George always made it a priority to diversify the workforce by employing local minority residents. In 1991, he retired from Sears to start his own business.

George entered politics in 1993, where he was a Commissioner for the City of Lauderdale. During the course of his career, George served on the boards of numerous community organizations such as the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce, Urban League of Broward County, the United Negro College Fund, National Conference of Christians and Jews, Broward County Girl Scouts of America, as well as countless other organizations.

Mr. Speaker, George's civic engagement in our community will never be forgotten. He was a true gentleman, who served this nation and our great state with distinction. George's positive contributions to the community were a true reflection to his generosity, humor, love of public service, and family.

I was so truly honored to have known George, and to call him my friend. My

thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends during this most difficult time. He will be dearly missed.

TRIBUTE TO COUNTY DEPUTY
JACOB PICKETT

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2018

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Hoosier hero who paid the ultimate sacrifice. Deputy Jacob Pickett of the Boone County Sheriff's Office was killed in the line of duty on March 2, 2018.

Jacob was a five year veteran in law enforcement and served as the leader in the department's K-9 unit. He held the rank of Sheriff Deputy in Boone County.

One of Indiana's finest, Jacob is a hero. He acted selflessly on a day that took an unexpected and fatal turn. But he died doing what he was trained to do: protecting the thin blue line and keeping the community he loved safe from harm's grasp. He is a reminder that we must never take for granted the sacrifice of those who live serving others while putting their lives on the line.

Jacob was a Brownsburg, Indiana native and pursued his dream of becoming a police officer after graduating from Brownsburg High School. His passion and commitment to law enforcement gained him notoriety among his colleagues as he joined the ranks at the Boone County Sheriff's Office. He became notable in handling the K-9 division and was rarely seen without his partner 'Brik', a brown and black German Shepherd. Jacob's leadership within his department and community was unmatched.

Boone County citizens and all Hoosiers mourn over the loss of Jacob who was known as a man of integrity and compassion. The impact of Jacob's death bears great weight, and has left his colleagues, companions and loved ones with a deep loss.

The day Jacob went on to be with our Lord and Savior, he did so by performing flawlessly at the side of his colleagues. He did not hesitate when he was called to run into the turmoil. As the Gospel of Matthew says "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

Jacob leaves behind his wife, Jennifer, two young children, and K-9 partner Brik to carry on his legacy of serving fellow Hoosiers. His passing is a great loss for our community and the State of Indiana. His sacrifice will never be forgotten.

Rest in peace Deputy Pickett.

HONORING MR. RICK ROVEGNO

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2018

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Rick Rovegno who is receiving the Exchange Club of Carlisle's prestigious Molly Pitcher Award. I know I will neither be the first, nor the last, to applaud Mr. Rovegno upon his receipt of this well-deserved honor.

Chartered by the National Exchange Club in 1949, the Exchange Club of Carlisle gives individuals the opportunity to use their time and talents to benefit their local communities and the country as a whole. The Molly Pitcher Award, which has annually honored citizens for their outstanding service to the Carlisle community since 1969, is named after the revolutionary war heroine who risked her life to bring water to artillerymen under fire. As evidenced by receiving this honor, Mr. Rovegno's charitable endeavors have made a significant impact and improved the lives of many in central Pennsylvania.

Throughout his successful career in business and local government, Mr. Rovegno served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Helen H. Stevens Community Mental Health Center, the Greater Carlisle Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Carlisle Regional Performing Arts Center, in addition to serving as an advisor to the Boy Scouts of America's Explorer Post 189. Mr. Rovegno's devotion to bettering his community is also underscored by his participation in local preservation and renovation efforts, such as maintaining the Carlisle Theatre. Furthermore, Mr. Rovegno and his wife of 36 years established the Rick and Karen Rovegno Trust, which supports local initiatives in education, the arts, libraries, and the environment. Needless to say, Mr. Rovegno's devotion to the betterment of his community continues to improve lives and inspire individuals across the Commonwealth.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mr. Rovegno for all he has done and continues to do for the Carlisle community and congratulate him on receiving the Molly Pitcher Award.

TRIBUTE: CITY OF FLORENCE,
ALABAMA COMMEMORATING THE
200TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MO BROOKS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2018

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize the City of Florence, Alabama, as it celebrates its 200th Anniversary. I am honored to serve the people of Florence, which is located in Alabama's 5th District.

By way of background, on March 12, 1818, General John Coffee saw the potential for a settlement on the banks of the Tennessee River, and he founded Florence, Alabama. General Coffee led the Cypress Land Company, and these visionaries established what they saw as a bold, new, and prosperous settlement.

At this time, these founding fathers of Florence commissioned an Italian surveyor named Ferdinand Sannoner to lay out the town. In deciding on a name for the new settlement, he named it Florence after the beautiful and historic city of Florence, Italy.

Through the years, the city's population grew, and many businesses and educational institutions were established in Florence. The city became known for having a legacy of commerce, industry, music and the arts, education, and architecture.

Florence stands as a testament to the Tennessee Valley's rich heritage, and I am proud

to celebrate with the city's residents today. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the City of Florence on this momentous occasion of its 200th Anniversary. I wish the city the best for another 200 years.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2018

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, public education is the foundation of our 21st Century democracy. Our public schools are where our students come to be educated in the fullest sense of the word as citizens of this great country. We strive every day to make every public school a place where we prepare the nation's young people to contribute to our society, economy, and citizenry.

Ninety percent of American children attend public schools. We call on local, state, and federal lawmakers to prioritize support for strengthening our nation's public schools and empowering local education leaders to implement, manage, and lead school districts in partnership with educators, parents, and other local education stakeholders and learning communities. This support would also provide for counseling, extra/co-curricular activities and mental health supports that are critical to help students engage in learning.

We support and value inclusive and safe high-quality public schools where children learn to think critically, problem solve, and build relationships. We support an environment where all students can succeed beginning in the earliest years, regardless of their zip code, the color of their skin, native language, disability, gender/gender identity, immigration status, religion, or social standing.

We promote advancing equity and excellence in public education, and implementing continuous improvement and evidence-based practices. Every child has the right to an education that helps them reach their full potential and to attend schools that offer a high quality educational experience.

We support stable, equitable, predictable, and adequate funding for great public schools for every student in America so that students have inviting classrooms and school libraries with up-to-date resources as well as well-prepared and supported educators. These educators include teachers, paraprofessionals, and principals who provide a well-rounded and complete curriculum and create joy in learning. Our school buildings should have class sizes small enough to allow one-on-one attention and have access to support services such as health care, nutrition, and after-school programs for students who need them.

We believe that public tax dollars should only support public schools that are publicly governed and accountable to parents, educators, and communities. In no way should local, state, or federal funding be taken away from public schools and given to private schools that are unaccountable to the public.

We reiterate our love for public education and pride in our public schools. We will continue to promote the promise and purpose of public education, to elevate the great things happening every day in our public schools, and to engage communities about strategies

that help students succeed. We affirm our commitment to fight for resources for public schools, and will be steadfast in our efforts to protect students and their families, public schools, and our communities from any policies that would undermine these values.

HONORING THE HEROIC SERVICE
AND SACRIFICE OF BOONE COUNTY
DEPUTY JACOB PICKETT

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2018

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life of an outstanding public servant, Boone County Deputy Jacob Pickett, who served his city and country with principle and integrity. Tragically, Deputy Pickett was killed in the line of duty on March 2, 2018.

Deputy Pickett, or "Jake" as he was known to his family and friends, served in law enforcement for the last eight years. Jake made the decision every day to put his life on the line to make Indiana a safer place. A true Hoosier, Jake graduated from Brownsburg High School and then graduated from the Marion County Sheriffs Office Training Academy in 2010. In 2014, he was a member of class 202 and completed training with the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy as a pistol expert.

Jake served with the Boone County Sheriff's Office for three years. Before joining the Boone County Sheriff's Office, he served as a Deputy with the Tipton County Sheriff Department. Jake also worked in the Marion County Jail. Although, I did not have the good fortune of knowing Deputy Pickett, I am incredibly proud of his heroic and brave actions to protect his fellow Hoosiers.

On March 2, Jake pinned on his badge and went to work on what he thought would be an ordinary day on the job. He was out on patrol, and joined officers from the Lebanon Police Department in pursuit of three suspects. Deputy Pickett was on foot in pursuit of the suspects when he was fatally shot. Jake laid down his life to protect his community from a dangerous individual. His last moments demonstrate the bravery, commitment, and sacrifice that he and his brothers and sisters in uniform display every day while working to make Indiana a safer and better state. Each and every day, officers like Jake put their lives in harm's way to protect us.

For the last two years, Jake led the Boone County Sheriff's Department K-9 team. His partner was Brik, a brown and black German shepherd-Belgian Malinois. They began working together in March 2016, and Brik rarely left Jake's side. On Tuesday, when Boone County Sheriff Mike Nielsen and prosecutors held a news conference to announce charges against the man accused of fatally shooting Jake, Brik was there with Sheriff Nielsen.

I join with Sheriff Nielsen and all of Boone County in mourning Jake's loss. As Sheriff Nielsen said, "There will forever be a loss felt in our community for him. He was a warrior, and he died laying down his life for you. He will never be forgotten."

Day after day, Jake displayed the compassion and integrity of a true public servant. In uniform, Jake would greet children at school.

When off-duty, Jake spent time saving rescue animals. Jake's selflessness extended in death. He was an organ donor, and his heart saved the life of another patient at St. Vincent's Hospital in Indianapolis.

Jake and his wife, Jennifer, were married for ten years and have two young sons. Jake was a beloved husband and a devoted father. In addition to his wife and two sons, Jake is survived by his parents, Marlin and Rebecca Pickett; his sister Kristi Woo and niece Hannah Woo; his parents-in-law, Jon and Carol Lindstrom; his brothers-in-law, Jeremy Lindstrom and Christopher Lindstrom. Deputy Pickett is a hero.

Jake will be forever missed by his colleagues at the Boone County Sheriff's office and by his family. The people of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District are eternally grateful for Jake's contributions to our Hoosier community and it is my privilege to honor him today. On behalf of all Hoosiers, I would like to salute Deputy Jacob Pickett for his impact and service to our community. His work with the Boone County Sheriff's Department and the K-9 unit were unmatched, and his presence will be greatly missed. I extend my deepest condolences to Jake's family, the Boone County Sheriff's Department, his friends, and the fellow officers who mourn his loss. My thoughts and prayers are with them.

RETIREMENT RECOGNITION FOR
ROBERT HOLDEN

HON. MARKWAYNE MULLIN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2018

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Robert Holden, a member of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Tribes, who joined the staff of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) in 1984 and retired last December after 33 years of dedicated service to NCAI and to the millions of Native people that were foremost in his mind every day of his life.

Many of you know that NCAI was begun in 1944 at the peak of the Federal government's "Termination Policy," which sought to dissolve Indian tribal governments and to assimilate Indian people into the mainstream of America. Today, NCAI is the oldest, largest and most representative tribal organization in the country, with more than 300 member tribes.

When people in Congress or in public want to gauge the views of Indian Country on matters of health care, housing, cultural issues, economic development or sovereignty, they turn to NCAI.

For more than three decades, these people have often talked to Robert who spent most of his career at NCAI when salaries were low, there was no proper retirement program or health care, and with few staff. This meant long days, evenings and weekends, travel away from home and family, and often-frustrating times getting the attention of decision-makers in Congress and Federal agencies.

Working under the leadership of at least 6 Executive Directors, Robert became, over time, the institutional and collective memory of the NCAI organization as well as the source of continuity that is so important to a membership organization like NCAI.