

Hawthorn Bolger-Witherspoon. Hawthorn is a fourteen-year-old student from South Valley, New Mexico who has written a series of short stories titled "South Valley" in an effort to encourage young people in our area to read.

Hawthorn wanted to provide her fellow students in the Albuquerque area with reading material that they could relate to, so she based her stories off of some of the issues that affect our community. The stories are centered on a gang member who turns his life around but who is still faced with issues like drug abuse and domestic violence. The stories also discuss the immigration issues that are currently facing our community.

The stories will also include illustrations that were created by Hawthorn. To create the illustrations, she took photos of a family friend who works at an Albuquerque school, and then altered them to look like drawings. The family friend is actually a former gang member himself, making him a fitting inspiration for the illustrations and for the stories' main character.

Integral to Hawthorn's stories was local poet Jimmy Santiago Baca, whose work the stories are based on. Mr. Baca himself had a difficult upbringing and spent time in prison. It was during his incarceration that he developed his love of poetry. He has since had a highly successful career that has included both an American Book Award and a Hispanic Heritage Award in Literature. He also founded a non-profit publishing company called Cedar Tree Poetic, which will be publishing Hawthorn's stories.

In addition to getting her stories published, Hawthorn's work will also be represented in our nation's capital. Two of her photographs will be included by the Smithsonian Institution in an educational film.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of New Mexico's First Congressional District, I want to congratulate Hawthorn Bolger-Witherspoon on becoming a published author and commend her for her work to encourage reading in our community. I also want to thank Jimmy Santiago Baca for his generous assistance and for his wonderful work over the years. We look forward to following the work of these writers and wish them continued success.

IN CELEBRATION OF CONNIE  
KALITTA'S 80TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 10, 2018*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Connie Kalitta on his 80th birthday. He has bettered our nation's transportation industry through his lifetime of work.

Born in Mount Clemens, Michigan in 1938, Mr. Kalitta is a lifelong Michigan resident who has long spent his career giving back to the state that he loves. He has had a lifelong passion for drag racing, beginning in the 1950s and retiring driving in 1995. Throughout his driving career he has been awarded numerous accolades, including induction to the Motorsports Hall of Fame of America in 1992 and the International Drag Racing Hall of Fame in 2002, as well as receiving the National Hot Rod Association's Lifetime Achievement Award in November 2016.

In addition to his storied racing career, Mr. Kalitta has played a large role in our state and

country's aviation industry and history. He has been nominated to receive the prestigious National Air Carrier Association Ronald N. Priddy Partners in Airlift Medal just this year, signifying his longstanding influence on our state and the industry. He employs over 1,500 Michiganders at his air and motorsports stores in Oscoda. His friends know him as ambitious and kindhearted and always willing to try something new. We are grateful for his years of influence on our state and prestigious racing career and wish him a very happy birthday with many more to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Connie Kalitta on his 80th birthday. He has played an important part in our state's history and has had a prestigious racing career.

IN HONOR OF LOUIS SILBER

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 10, 2018*

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor Louis Silber, who has recently been awarded the Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award. I include in the RECORD an article from the Florida Bar News which made the announcement:

"Louis Marc Silber is known for his tenacious advocacy in two unrelated areas: the rights of homeowners facing fraudulent foreclosure practices, and the reproductive rights of women. His legal victories on the foreclosure front resulted in much-needed windfalls for legal aid, while his pro bono work has helped keep a West Palm Beach women's center in operation.

In 2007, Silber filed suit against David J. Stern and his law firm over accusations of foreclosure fraud. Silber won the class-action case, but some money went unclaimed, and a Cy Pres award benefitted the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County. In 2017, legal aid again benefitted when a court agreed Silber could distribute the money to three charities—the Legal Aid Society, the Lord's Place (a homeless shelter), and the Miami Rescue Mission—in a second case involving Stern's victims.

In all, Silber and his team of lawyers provided more than \$400,000 to the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County through the two Cy Pres awards.

Silber's relationship with the Presidential Women's Center began when the center opened in 1980. He has been an advocate in important legal battles to protect reproductive rights in Florida. He played a lead role in blocking Florida's counseling law from going into effect and has provided local counsel against a law that would have limited some later term abortion procedures, all on a pro bono basis.

Silber has also supported patients with unique legal questions and has helped to defend the safety of physicians and staff.

For the first 16 years representing Presidential Women's Center, Silber provided all legal services for free. Since then, he has accepted pay for half his work at the insistence of founder and director Mona Reis, who says: "He is the force that has kept me going."

Silber, who earned his J.D. in 1973 from Georgetown University Law Center, was an assistant state attorney and then a partner with Cone, Wagner, Nugent, Hazouri and Roth before forming Pariente & Silber, P.A., with now Justice Barbara Pariente. That

firm lasted until 1993, with Pariente's elevation to the bench, and eventually became Silber & Davis."

Louis' persistent dedication to the rights of women is laudable, and I can think of no one more deserving of this award than him.

HONORING THE MONTCLAIR PUBLIC LIBRARY'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 10, 2018*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Montclair Public Library, located in the Township of Montclair, New Jersey, on the occasion of its 125th Anniversary.

In 1869, Israel Crane and his wife invited friends and neighbors to organize a subscription library collection of about one hundred books. There were 30 participating families. The collection was housed under the counter at Betzler's Drug Store on Bloomfield Avenue (then called Main), near the Presbyterian Church (now the site of the Hinck Building). The books were moved to the Pillsbury Building, also located on Bloomfield Avenue, and the library obtained a charter as the Montclair Library Association.

The Montclair Library Association built a wood framed building on the east side of South Fullerton Avenue near Bloomfield Avenue, for \$1,700 in 1871. The Montclair Library Association was incorporated. The Association's building burned down during a raging blizzard on February 28, 1880. Amazingly, most of the 2,192 books were saved, moved, and issued from Central School at Church Street and Valley Road for several years.

Following New Jersey State legislation in 1890 authorizing the establishment of free public libraries, Montclair citizens voted on April 11, 1893 to establish a public, tax supported library. Funds and books from the Montclair Library Association were turned over to the newly established Montclair Free Public Library, which served all of Montclair's 8,656 residents. Its first quarters were on the second floor of Dr. John J.H. Love's office at 16 Church Street. Mary F. Weeks served as the first Library Director from 1893 to 1897. Coincidentally, Dr. Love's home was located at 50 South Fullerton Avenue, the current site of the Main Library.

The library was moved to an abandoned inn called the Munn Tavern, bought for about \$5,000 and renovated for an additional \$1,000 in 1898. The Munn Tavern, which still stands today, was later moved back from the road and is now part of the Evangelical Covenant Church at 17 Valley Road.

The first Branch Library was a rented room in the real estate office of John Mancini on Bellevue Avenue, near the train station, in 1899. Three hundred and fifty books from the Main Library formed the basis of this collection.

In 1902, the Carnegie Corporation gave \$40,000 to Montclair to fund the construction of a library. After 35 years and six different locations, Montclair Public Library had its first purpose-built library building on the former site of the Munn Tavern, which was built in 1904. The library at 73 Church Street served as the Main Library for 50 years. This building is now

part of the Unitarian Church, located at the intersection of Valley Road and Church Street.

The Carnegie Corporation gave Montclair a second sum of \$40,000 for the construction of the Bellevue Avenue Branch. The Bellevue Avenue Branch Library opened on December 26, 1914. The original design of the building remains intact today.

In February 1942, Montclair Public Library became the first public library in the United States to have a computerized circulation system. The International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) designed the Library's first ever punch card data processing system and equipment to record the loan and return of books. Librarians from all over the world visited Montclair to witness this pioneering venture.

Having outgrown the library building on Church Street, its home for 50 years, a new Main Library was built in 1955. The Davella Mills Foundation donated the former site of Dr. Love's home at 50 South Fullerton Avenue as the site for the new library building. They also contributed \$250,000 toward the \$800,000 construction cost.

The Montclair Public Library began community outreach in 1969 with bookmobiles in parks, playgrounds and on neighborhood street corners. Library use jumped 40 percent in two years as a result.

Neighborhood Information Center Helps Everyone (NICHE) was initiated as a federally funded community information and referral service in 1974. The goal of NICHE was to provide information as a catalyst for social change. It existed in a storefront at 375 Bloomfield Avenue from 1974 to 1977 and was fully incorporated into Montclair Public Library in 1979.

The Montclair Public Library was named one of the top five libraries in the nation by Library Journal in 2002. The Library also received the Bessie Bohme Moore Award for services to seniors in that year. Simultaneously, the Montclair Public Library Foundation was established to develop new financial resources exclusively for Montclair Public Library.

In 2004, the Montclair Public Library celebrated the Centennial anniversary of its first purpose built public library building on Church Street, the Library's home for 50 years until a new building was erected on its current site at 50 South Fullerton Avenue in 1954. The Centennial was an opportunity to renew community appreciation for Montclair Public Library's rich history and revitalize interest in Library assets.

The library has been in integral part of the greater Montclair community and has exceeded its mission to change lives every day through words, ideas and community connections.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in congratulating the Montclair Public Library on the occasion of its 125th Anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF VERONICA BRAKER'S DISTINGUISHED WORK AT BASF

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 10, 2018*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Veronica Braker for her distinguished work as Vice President of Operations Performance Materials at BASF. She has been an outstanding leader for the company and Wyandotte plant for years.

The Science, Technology, Engineering and Production (STEP) Ahead Awards Gala is an annual celebration to honor women in manufacturing who are providing leadership in their companies. American women make up approximately 50 percent of the country's workforce, but only 29 percent of the manufacturing industry, and STEP Ahead seeks to highlight the women who are paving the way for a more inclusive and equal field of work. The Manufacturing Institute is recognizing 130 women in manufacturing from across the country who are leaders in their respective fields and positions, ranging from shop worker to company executive. Veronica Braker is extremely deserving of this recognition for the work that she has done for BASF North America through her leadership.

Graduating from Christian Brothers University in 1992 with a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering, Mrs. Braker worked for a variety of companies including Milliken & Company, The Clorox Company, GE, Flint Hills Resources, before joining BASF as a Manufacturing Manager in 2011. Since working at BASF, Ms. Braker has held multiple positions including Head of Operations for North America-Performance Materials and her current position, Vice President of Operations-Performance Materials. She has always been passionate about the environment, safety, and health, and seeks to better conditions in BASF facilities throughout North America. She is known at BASF for her positivity, hard work and ingenuity. Throughout her career, she has opened doors a little wider for the women who came after her, including the creation of a three-year career development program for women at the company. She is truly deserving of recognition at tonight's Annual STEP Ahead Awards Gala, and I look forward to seeing her continued contributions to the manufacturing industry.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Veronica Braker for her lifetime of work in the manufacturing industry. She has provided distinguished leadership in the field for over 25 years.

HONORING JEAN GASPAR

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 10, 2018*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my constituents who is celebrating a remarkable milestone in her cancer journey. Jean Gaspar of Palm Harbor is celebrating 10 years of good health following her diagnosis of chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML) in 2008.

To give back after her cancer diagnosis, Jean became deeply involved with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society by volunteering with Team in Training, a program that brings individuals together as a team to train for an endurance event, and Light The Night, an event that supports treatments that are saving the lives of patients today. Through Team in Training and Light The Night, Jean has raised tens of thousands of dollars to support the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's mission to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families.

Jean is also an active advocate for policies to help blood cancer patients. I had the privilege of meeting with Jean last May when she visited Washington, D.C. to participate in the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Volunteer Leadership Conference. Jean's story is inspiring, and I enjoyed the opportunity to talk with her about policies to help blood cancer patients access their treatments.

On the heels of National Volunteer Week, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society is recognizing Jean's good health and tremendous volunteerism on April 28, the night before she embarks on her first triathlon, by naming her the National Honored Teammate for the event. As the co-chair of the Congressional Caucus to Cure Blood Cancers and Other Blood Disorders, it is my privilege to join with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society in congratulating Jean on reaching this health milestone and to wish her well at the St. Anthony's Triathlon on April 29.

REMEMBERING DR. RITA JACKSON SAMUELS

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 10, 2018*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding businesswoman, dedicated public servant, mentor to many, trailblazer, and one of Georgia's most prolific women's rights advocates, Dr. Rita Jackson Samuels. Sadly, Dr. Samuels passed away on Tuesday, March 27, 2018, at the age of 72. Her funeral service was held on Saturday, April 7, 2018, at noon at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

A native of Forsyth, Georgia, Dr. Samuels attended Claflin University, Morris Brown College, and Georgia State University and received her Business & Secretarial Science Certification from Dimery's Business College in Atlanta, Georgia.

As a young woman, she worked as a secretary for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference under the administrations of several influential individuals and alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In 1971, Dr. Samuels became the first African-American female in Georgia's history to serve on the personal staff of a Georgia Governor as then-Governor Jimmy Carter's Coordinator of the Governor's Council on Human Relations. Governor Carter personally selected her to oversee the hanging of the Martin Luther King, Jr. portrait in the Georgia State Capitol. After Carter became president, she worked as a consultant with his