

A voice that oversaw the citizen education workshops that empowered disenfranchised African-Americans to register to vote.

Born in Goldsboro, North Carolina, this tireless civil rights activist who proclaimed that the Civil Rights Movement was her life, was described as a warm presence who sang spirituals to ease tensions at demonstrations.

Educated at Shaw University, Virginia State College, and Boston University, Dorothy Cotton began engaging in activism at the Gillfield Baptist Church in Petersburg, Virginia where Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker, also head of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, was pastor.

There she began to organize protests against segregation in the local public library and at the whites-only lunch counter at Woolworth.

Shortly after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke at the church, he requested that Dr. Walker join him at the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and Dorothy Cotton followed.

At the SCLC, she served as an Administrative Assistant to Rev. Walker, quickly ascending to directing citizen education workshops to empower disenfranchised African-Americans to register to vote.

She recruited people, from pool halls to churches, to demand and exercise their voting-rights.

At the workshops, thousands of participants learned citizenship rights, black history, economic opportunity and organizing credit unions.

With that knowledge, they went back to their communities educating other African-Americans on the importance of political power and to help them register to vote, even teaching them how to pass literacy tests.

In addition, she trained children to participate in demonstrations which became known as the Children's Crusade, organized night marches against segregation in St. Augustine, Florida, and brought children to the local public beach to protest a whites-only policy.

She regularly traveled with Dr. King, typing his famous I Have a Dream Speech, going with him to Oslo, Norway to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, and staying in a Memphis, Tennessee motel room next to his until hours before his assassination in 1968.

Dorothy Cotton remained active in civil rights and education after leaving the SCLC, moving to Ithaca, New York in 1982 to be Director of Student Activities at Cornell University.

She worked with students to demand that Cornell University divest its financial ties to South Africa to protest the country's apartheid policies.

After retiring from the university, the Center for Transformative Action started the Dorothy Cotton Institute to advance global human rights in her honor.

In addition, the Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers was established to help preserve the spirituals she sung.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating Dorothy Cotton's life and legacy.

America is a better place because of Ms. Cotton and her service.

I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in memory of Dorothy Cotton.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent for votes on June 12, 2018.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 258, and YEA on Roll Call No. 259.

HONORING DR. THOMAS A. PARHAM

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize and honor Dr. Thomas A. Parham, an exemplary constituent and university administrator who I am immensely proud to represent. Dr. Parham is ending his 33-year tenure at the University of California, Irvine to become the President of California State University, Dominguez Hills. I know that Dr. Parham will take to Dominguez Hills with the same passion and drive that made his time at the University of California, Irvine such a success.

Dr. Parham most recently held the position of Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs at the University of California, Irvine. Under his leadership, the Irvine student body was empowered to break down racial barriers in their classrooms and communities. Such work has been a staple of Dr. Parham's career as he played an integral role in chartering the Orange County chapter of 100 Black Men of America, eventually serving as President from 2002 to 2005. Through this organization, Dr. Parham spearheaded programs in Orange County and Los Angeles which set education goals for high school students that aimed to bring underrepresented students to the top of the educational ladder. This work demonstrates Dr. Parham's bearing to recognize vital areas of education that deserve continued attention and service. In addition to his work as a university administrator and community activist, Dr. Parham is also a voluminous author who has been published over 45 times. His written works bring to light the importance of the African American identity and the role this plays in counseling a historically marginalized group. His focus on the success of students demonstrates his caring and compassionate nature that has been a cornerstone of his career.

Dr. Parham has truly had a great impact on all the lives he has touched and his dedication to the service of others will truly be remembered. Though he is leaving Orange County, I am certain that he will be successful in this new endeavor and wish him well in his continuing mission to educate and mentor. With his vision and leadership, I am sure that the students at Dominguez Hills will be well served by Dr. Parham.

HONORING DR. PATRICK J. SWEENEY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Patrick J. Sweeney upon his retirement from a distinguished eight year tenure as Superintendent of Napa Valley Unified School District.

Dr. Sweeney was born in Dublin, California and was one of eight siblings. He realized his passion for education at an early age and graduated from San Diego State University in 1979 with a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies. He then earned a Master of Arts in Administration and Supervision from San Jose State University in 1985, as well as a Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership from the University of La Verne in 2000.

Dr. Sweeney has served Napa Valley Unified School District (NVUSD) as Superintendent since 2010. Under his leadership, NVUSD significantly increased its attendance and graduation rates, improved school safety and opened American Canyon High School. Dr. Sweeney also launched pivotal programs to improve student health and wellness, including opening Wellness Centers at the middle schools in the district. Dr. Sweeney guided the district through monumental changes in federal and state education policy and two significant natural disasters. During the October 2017 fires, he opened American Canyon High School as a shelter and focused on ensuring Spanish-speaking families were receiving accurate and up to date information.

In addition to serving NVUSD as Superintendent, Dr. Sweeney has also greatly impacted other schools and districts. He was Principal of a Bilingual Magnet School in Santa Cruz County, California, Superintendent of the American School in Durango, Mexico and Superintendent, and later Director of Educational Services, of the Patterson Joint Unified School District. In all of his roles in various schools and school districts, Dr. Sweeney has focused on building relationships within each community and has committed himself to serving students and educators from a broad range of cultural and socio-economic backgrounds.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Sweeney is a passionate educator with an esteemed record for giving back to his students, colleagues and the community, who has dutifully served Napa Valley Unified School District as Superintendent for eight years. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor Dr. Patrick J. Sweeney here today.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HOME RULE BRIDGES ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Home Rule Bridges Act. This bill is necessary to repeal a redundant 1997 federal law that makes it a

crime for a person in the District of Columbia to obstruct any bridge connecting D.C. and Virginia. The District already had, and continues to have, its own local law prohibiting obstructing a bridge in the District. There is no federal law that prohibits a person in Virginia from obstructing such a bridge or a person in any state from obstructing a bridge connecting two states, and, fortunately, D.C. does not need a federal law to keep our bridges clear either.

This law is as offensive as it is redundant. It harks back to a time when a private group in D.C. attempted to block the 14th Street Bridge into Virginia, although there is no evidence that D.C. authorities failed to act. The District's local criminal law prohibiting obstructing a bridge takes care of any obstruction occurring here.

Under the 1997 federal law, "whoever in the District of Columbia knowingly and willfully obstructs any bridge connecting the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Virginia . . . shall be fined not less than \$1,000 and not more than \$5,000, and in addition may be imprisoned not more than 30 days. . . ." Under D.C. law, a person may be subject to imprisonment and/or fines for "crowd[ing], obstruct[ing], or incommo[d]ing . . . [t]he use of any street, avenue, alley, road, highway, or sidewalk."

The courts have long held that D.C. may repeal federal laws that predate the 1973 Home Rule Act (HRA) and apply exclusively in or to the District, but have not ruled on whether D.C. may repeal post-HRA federal laws that apply exclusively in or to the District. My bill would avoid any court challenge the District could face if it tries to repeal this 1997 federal law.

This is an important step to increase home rule for the District, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE HISTORY OF LYONS, NEW YORK

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the important history of Lyons, New York. Recently, the town's iconic downtown historical district was granted a designation on the National Register of Historic Places. This designation allows for the town to keep and preserve many historical buildings and landmarks.

Located in Wayne County, the Town of Lyons was originally settled in the late 1700's and then, in 1796, renamed after Lyons, France. The construction of the Erie Canal was pivotal to the growth of the town. The town also grew due to an abundant amount of peppermint oil, and a great deal of manufacturing.

I would like to congratulate Joan Delaro, the Executive Director of the Lyons Main Street Program. This program is essential to the Lyons community, as is it assists local businesses, organizes community clean up and beautification program, and leads the effort to designation downtown Lyons as a historical area. I would also like to thank Brian Manktelow, town supervisor, and all of the

town board members for their support in designating Lyons a historical place.

This new designation not only allows for the community to preserve and revitalize many buildings and landmarks, but it will also help encourage economic development.

I am proud that Lyons has received this designation, and I will fight to make sure that it has the means it needs to be able to succeed.

PASSING OF EARL MASSEY

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I am sad to report the passing of my dear friend and colleague, and a former Congressional staff member, Earl Massey, laid to rest on June 16, 2018.

Devoted to Los Angeles and to serving its diverse communities, Earl was an activist, who worked with the faith community, small businesses, nonprofit organizations and government agencies to help the community thrive. Having grown up in a military family, he went to work for the Los Angeles Fire Department in 1980. He came to work with me at the Community Coalition for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment shortly after the civil unrest in 1992, and he founded his own organization, Surviving in Recovery (SIR) that same year.

Earl aided in the development of prevention and intervention programs with a wide range of issues such as substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, police and community relations, violence prevention, teen pregnancy prevention, STD prevention, and teen drug prevention/intervention, including for Charles Drew University. He was a contributing author to Substance Abuse Prevention: A Multicultural Model by Snehen du B. Kar published in 1999, he worked on research projects with UCLA and the Rand Corp., and is accredited with contributions to multiple publications. When President Bill Clinton offered a long-overdue apology for the Tuskegee Syphilis Study in 1997, he worked with the Presidential committee tasked with establishing trust between researchers and minority communities.

I welcomed him to my Congressional staff when first elected, and I appreciated his many community connections, his work ethic, and his focus on service and social justice.

Later in life Earl focused on emergency preparedness. Having survived the Great Alaska Earthquake of 1964 as a child, he knew the disruption and harm that results when people are unprepared for disaster. His firm, Disaster Awareness Project, conducted seminars for hundreds of people. At the time of his passing, Earl served as Vice Chairperson for the Latin American Bible Institute College Board of Trustees and advisor to the American Red Cross, USC's Southern California Earthquake Center, The Great Shakeout, CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) and a multitude of nonprofit organizations in Los Angeles County and Central California.

Earl touched many, many lives and his passing leaves a hole in the community that all of us must work to fill. May he rest in peace.

HARRIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE DEPUTIES SAVE LIVES

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in the past month, four deputies of the Harris County Sheriff's Office saved two lives.

On a Sunday morning in early May, Deputies Jesse Leal and Rebecca Cruz were driving along I-45 when they came upon a man dangling from an I-45 overpass, apparently attempting to take his own life. Covered in mud, oil, and water from a previous call, Leal pulled over and dashed to the side of the bridge. He and Cruz then leaned over the edge of the overpass, risking their own wellbeing, and began heaving the 21-year-old back onto the road. Leal injured his knee in the process, but the two successfully pulled the young man to safety.

In June, Deputy Blake McElhaney was driving home, exhausted after having worked the night shift. On his way, he noticed an accident, a nasty one, on the side of the road. Although he was no longer on duty, McElhaney pulled over and jumped out of his car to help the victims.

Upon his arrival, he discovered an infant, just seven months old, trapped under a dashboard. He called for backup, and then proceeded to shield the helpless baby from glass.

Backup came in the form of Deputy Joe Leal. Leal rushed to the side of his partner and lifted the dashboard enough to take pressure off of the infant. The two continued to protect the small girl until the Spring Volunteer Fire Department arrived. With their assistance, Leal raised the dashboard high enough to pull the baby out of the wrecked car safely. The girl was then life-flighted to a nearby hospital.

For their exceptional performance in the line of duty, these four members of the Thin Blue Line were awarded Deputy of the Month Awards by the HCSO for the months of May and June respectively. In true blue blood fashion, the deputies deflected credit of their heroic efforts to save the lives of two Houstonians, instead highlighting the assistance received from other first responders and ordinary citizens on site during both events.

Mr. Speaker, the men and women who wear the badge are a cut above the rest. Our peace officers protect us from harm, and these events further demonstrate how lucky we are to have such men and women as Deputies Rebecca Cruz, Jesse Leal, Joe Leal, and Blake McElhaney looking out for us.

And that is just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING TOM KLASNER

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tom Klasner, who was honored with the 2017 Rural County Engineer Award in April.

Over the last 16 years, Tom has worked to reduce the number of 19 structurally deficient or obsolete bridges in Jersey County down to