

Hammond, Indiana: Mark Andrew Abraham, Vanesa Anabel Miseres, Emeterio Garcia Betancourt, Abdullah Al Mamun, Adan Boussart Cruz, Haider Mohammed Abbas Al Kilidar, Marjorie Eldora Garbutt, Doaa Ayad Khalid Al Dulaimi, Eleftheria Nikolaos Fitousis, Maria de Jesus Ramirez Trejo, Lea Estialbo Tan, Oswaldo Rafael Gutierrez Mercado, Miguel Angel Morales Hernandez, Jai Prakash Agrawal, Hina Naz Chaudhry, Alaa George Issa Tadros, Xiaoyan Yang, Abdelhafid Erramnat, Yuliya Maroz, Gerardo Alvarez, Nana Kwesi Ampadu Annoh, Claudia Andrea Cespedes, Moon Tek Fisher, Maria Alejandra Hernandez, Jordan Dong Van Hoang, Patricia E. Leyva, Sandip Singh Lidhar, Himansu R. Parikh, Sherida Antoinette Parkes King and Julio Cesar Salazar.

Although each individual has sought to become a citizen of the United States for his or her own reasons, be it for education, occupation, or to offer their loved ones better lives, each is inspired by the fact that the United States of America is, as Abraham Lincoln described it, a country “. . . of the people, by the people, and for the people.” They realize that the United States is truly a free nation. By seeking American citizenship, they have made the decision that they want to live in a place where, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution, they can practice religion as they choose, speak their minds without fear of punishment, and assemble in peaceful protest should they choose to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals who will become citizens of the United States of America on August 10, 2018. They, too, are American citizens, guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, as a free and democratic nation, congratulate them and welcome them.

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT “RED”
MCKEON

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2018

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reflect on the life of the legendary Robert “Red” McKeon, Chief of Occum Volunteer Fire Department in Norwich, CT. Red passed away in March, and the village has felt his loss deeply. His life’s work was improving fire and emergency services anywhere he could. He was an institution in his own right and I’d like to take a moment to reflect on his life of service at the local, state, and national level.

Red McKeon was born in Putnam, CT and was a U.S. Army veteran who served in the Korean War. He joined the Occum Volunteer Fire Department in 1944, and in 1960, he became chief—a position he held for 34 years. During his tenure, Red was an innovator and he established an ambulance service at his station which was one of the first volunteer operations in Connecticut to have one. He also pushed for the creation of a pension system for Norwich volunteer firefighters. This benefit has been imitated by many volunteer departments as an effective tool to recruit and retain volunteers. After his retirement he made himself available to offer advice to the next gen-

eration of community leaders. He even channeled his energy and newfound spare time into the development of a neighborhood park that was ultimately named in his honor.

Red’s activism went beyond his hometown. He became one of the first certified EMTs in the state and he lobbied for stronger EMT training criteria across Connecticut. He was also a member of the Connecticut State Fireman’s Association, serving briefly as president and maintaining a position as treasurer for 20 years. In 2009, he became a member of the first class of honorees inducted into the association’s hall of fame.

Red’s leadership extended just as far on the national stage as it did at home. He and his team worked with the Center for Disease Control to certify the development of training for EMT and MRT personnel which was then implemented nationally. He joined forces with the CDC once more to develop OSHA training and guidelines pertaining to AIDS. He also helped create the Public Safety Officers’ Benefits Program as well as the National Volunteer Fire Council on which he served as chairman from 1991 to 1995. He was awarded the council’s E. James Monihan Director Award for achievements that exemplify outstanding performance and have gone above normal expectations.

On a personal note, when I was first elected to Congress in 2006, Red was a frequent visitor to my district office and was an invaluable source of advice and help on Department of Homeland Security Programs such as the Assistance to Firefighters Grant that has benefitted small departments all across eastern Connecticut. He was always quick with a smile and corny jokes for me and my staff and we welcomed his visits over the years.

Red, from the little village of Occum, led a remarkable life, representing the United States at World Federation of Firefighters conferences all over the world. He even had audiences with multiple high-level dignitaries including President George H.W. Bush and Vice President Dan Quayle, then First Lady Hillary Clinton, and even Pope Pius XII and Pope John Paul.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in honoring the memory of Red McKeon. He was a shining example of what it means to be a citizen-servant and Occum will not be the same without him.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF RONALD V. DELLUMS, HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MARINE CORPS VETERAN, ANTI-WAR ACTIVIST, MAYOR OF OAKLAND, CO-FOUNDER OF CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS AND CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS, AND TIRELESS CHAMPION FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to remember and pay tribute to Ronald V. Dellums, the pioneering, legendary, brilliant, and dynamic former Chair-

man of the House Armed Services Committee who represented the residents of California 9th Congressional District in this body for 27 years.

Ronald Dellums died peacefully on July 30, 2018, at his home in Washington D.C. after waging a heroic but losing battle against prostate cancer; he was 82 years old.

Born November 24, 1935 in Oakland, California, to Verney and Willa Dellums, Ronald Vernie Dellums would go on to lead a consequential life marked by public service, active engagement, and passionate leadership.

These qualities—service, engagement, passionate commitment—were Dellums family traits; Ron’s father was a longshoreman and active in the labor movement and his uncle, Cottrell Laurence Dellums, helped A. Philip Randolph organize the Brother of Sleeping Car Porters, before being elected President of the union in 1966.

In 1954, after graduating from high school, and during the height of the Cold War, Ronald Dellums enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and served two years before being honorably discharged in 1956.

His honorable service to the nation enabled him to attend college on the G.I. Bill and in 1958 he earned an Associate of Arts degree from Oakland City College, followed by a Bachelor of Science degree in 1960 from San Francisco State University, an M.S.W. from the University of California at Berkeley in 1962.

Upon graduation from UC-Berkeley, Ronald Dellums worked as a psychiatric social worker for the California Department of Mental Hygiene and taught at San Francisco State University and the University of California at Berkeley, work which soon led him to become involved in local politics.

In 1967, at the age of 32, Ronald was elected to the Berkeley City Council, where he served until 1970, when he was elected to Congress as an anti-Vietnam War activist, defeating the incumbent in the primary, and winning the general election in a landslide.

In 1972, Ronald Dellums was reelected to the 93rd Congress and to the succeeding Congresses, never winning election with less than 57 percent of the vote.

During his tenure in Congress, Ronald Dellums served on the House Committees on Foreign Affairs, the District of Columbia, Post Office and Civil Service, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and Armed Services, which he chaired from 1993 to 95 and was Ranking Member from 1995 until his retirement from the House in 1998.

Throughout his congressional career, Ronald Dellums, who cofounded the Congressional Black Caucus in 1971 and the Congressional Progressive Caucus in 1991, was one of the Capitol’s leading authorities and voices challenging the underlying assumptions of the U.S. military budget.

Ronald Dellums also led the congressional opposition to the apartheid regime in South Africa, winning passage of the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986 by congressional override of President Reagan’s veto, the first override in the 20th century of a presidential foreign policy veto.

Ronald Dellums championed for equal rights for Americans and was one of the first to call for the integration of gays and lesbians into the military.

In addition to championing equal rights, Ron Dellums was a strong supporter of historic preservation.