

waged battle on a number of social issues plaguing distressed communities, including increased funding for education, jobs, housing, healthcare, and combatting infant mortality and lack of access to affordable housing.

As the first Black chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Ron forcefully advocated peace through diplomacy and disarmament in the midst of debates on the Vietnam war and excessive military spending. Ron also became a vocal opponent against LGBTQ discrimination in the military. A co-founder of the Congressional Black Caucus, Ron advocated passionately to end American support for the apartheid regime in South Africa, eventually sponsoring legislation to bring forth economic sanctions and divestment by American companies and U.S. citizens.

In 1998, Ron left Congress and remained active as a local and national civil rights leader. His departure from public service, however, was short lived, and in 2007, Ron was elected mayor of the city of Oakland in the midst of our Nation's worst economic recession since the Great Depression. As mayor, Ron secured a record number of Federal grants for the city of Oakland, supporting major infrastructure projects, including port developments at the Oakland Army Base and public transportation wins for California's East Bay.

Ron was a dear friend, trailblazer, and champion for civil and human rights, whose service and dedication to the United States will forever be cherished and remembered. His legacy will continue to inspire past, present, and future Members of Congress who dare to fight for what is right in the face of political unpopularity and resounding odds.

We wish every Californian and those whose lives were touched by Ron peace during this difficult time, especially his wife, Cynthia, and his children, Michael, Pamela, Piper, Brandon, and Erik.

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#### 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF MEXICAN FIESTA

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Mexican Fiesta as it celebrates 45 years of bringing the culture and taste of Mexico to Milwaukee, WI. Mexican Fiesta offers Wisconsin's Hispanic community the opportunity to preserve its cultural identity and celebrate its colorful traditions. I am so pleased to honor this Wisconsin organization and to commemorate this significant milestone.

What began in 1973 as a Mexican Independence Day street festival on Milwaukee's south side has now become one of the region's largest festivals honoring Hispanic heritage. The festival grew so rapidly that it was moved to the mammoth Henry Maier Festival Park just 4 short years after its founding, where it has been held since 1977. Today, nearly 85,000 people attend this wonderful event every year,

which contributes an estimated \$8.5 million to Milwaukee's annual economy.

Mexican Fiesta honors Hispanic culture and showcases the beauty of Mexico's rich history, art, music, and food, but it is more than just a cultural celebration. The festival also provides an important gateway to a college education for young Hispanics. Mexican Fiesta has heightened the significance of its celebration by serving as the main fundraiser for the Wisconsin Hispanic Scholarship Foundation, Inc., and by highlighting the scholarship recipients during the festivities. In addition to its scholarships, the foundation also works to improve the standard of living in the Hispanic community, train its leaders, and preserve and honor Hispanic traditions. The foundation has awarded more than \$1.3 million in scholarships and nearly \$500,000 in grants to nonprofit organizations since it was founded in 1987.

Wisconsin's Hispanic population increased by 95 percent from 2000 to 2015, growing to nearly 7 percent of the State's population. This was the most rapid rise among any major ethnic group in the State. While many Hispanic Wisconsinites reside in the southeastern corner of the State, it is important that we embrace Hispanic culture throughout the great State of Wisconsin. Mexican Fiesta serves as an important reminder of the social and economic benefits of a diverse community in Wisconsin and throughout our Nation.

We in Wisconsin owe a debt of gratitude to the organizers of Mexican Fiesta for sharing the vibrant traditions and respected values of their Hispanic heritage. That they take this time-honored celebration one step further by investing in the future success of the next generation makes this festival all the more meaningful. I am honored to recognize the 45th anniversary of Mexican Fiesta and look forward to many more successful fiestas in the years to come.

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#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING ELZA R. TUCKER

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Elza Tucker, a World War II veteran who dedicated his life to serving his community and country.

Elza Richard Tucker was born July 13, 1918. Born and raised in the Lowell, AR, area, Tucker was passionate about his community and demonstrated that through his decades of selfless service.

He enlisted in the Army in 1941, where he served with the 2nd Armored Division, "Hell on Wheels," under the command of General George S. Patton. He first set foot in France on Omaha Beach in Normandy 3 days after the initial D-day landing.

He recalled his first days in combat with local media in 2016 when he was presented the French Legion of Honor,

France's highest honor for military service. "The Germans were coming from the back of me and I could see them and I set a big barn on fire so I could see them as they came through," he said. He shared how he used a machine gun to defend his fellow soldiers in that same battle.

Tucker also saw combat in Africa, the invasion of Sicily, and the Rhineland campaign. For his service, he was awarded the Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal, Presidential Unit Emblem, Croix de Guerre, American Defense Service Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, and WWII Victory Medal.

His commitment to service continued long after he left military life. He poured his heart and devotion into his faith and his beloved town, earning him the affectionate nickname "Mr. Lowell." Tucker served faithfully at his church, First Baptist Church of Lowell, as both a deacon and Sunday school teacher. His resume includes elected offices on the Benton County Quorum Court and the city council, as well as civil roles as a rural route mail carrier and post master of Lowell. He also volunteered with the Lowell Fire Department and was a member of the Lowell Planning Commission. In order to preserve the history of the community he so dearly loved and served, he established the Lowell Historical Museum.

The community grew to know and love Tucker, honoring him in 2004 when Elza R. Tucker Elementary and Middle School opened in nearby Rogers.

Tucker never let old-age slow him down, either. He was a familiar face at the Lowell Historical Museum, where he served as a greeter until June 30, 2017, and he also spent much time at the Lowell branch of Arvest Bank, handing out popcorn to customers.

Sadly, Tucker passed away on July 30, 2018, at the age of 100.

A member of the "greatest generation," who spent his life in service to the community, Elza Tucker was a true neighbor, friend, and humanitarian. I extend my sincere condolences to his family and friends, and I hope that they find comfort in the incredible legacy of he leaves behind. ●

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##### TRIBUTE TO REVEREND RICHARD PRICE

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate and recognize Rev. Richard Price on 40 years of ministry in Arkadelphia, AR. This is a tremendous milestone, and I join with many others in extending my sincere thanks and appreciation to Reverend Price for his faithful service over so many years.

Reverend Price was born in Barberton, OH, and also lived in Frankfort, IN, growing up. He went on to attend Apostolic Bible College and, upon graduating, began an evangelistic ministry where he preached revivals over the course of 5 years.