

Committee has improved our nation's ability to forecast the weather, study the ocean, support the nation's fishing industry, protect intellectual property rights, respond to natural disasters, and improve the course of justice.

Aschley will be missed by the Committee. We wish her well, thank her for her years of service, and know that she will excel at whatever future endeavors she pursues.

RECOGNIZING MS. MELINDA DYE FOR RECEIVING A PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM THE HEALTHSOUTH REHABILITATION HOSPITAL OF ALTOONA

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mindy Dye, one of the winners of the 25th annual Personal Achievement Award from the HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Altoona. This award is given to encourage and recognize those who have made an outstanding effort to deal with or overcome a disability. This year, Mindy has earned that distinction.

Mindy suffered a major stroke in December 2017 that affected her speech and body. She could not walk, talk and lost all muscle control on her right side. Every day was a struggle in therapy as she tried to regain her strength, balance, ability to walk and her ability to speak. Another setback occurred a few months later during her cranium replacement surgery when she ended up with an infection that required an emergency procedure and several months of antibiotics. Ultimately, Mindy resumed her therapy, was always willing to do her best, maintained a positive attitude, and was motivated to get better.

Today, Mindy has made an amazing recovery through her hard work and determination. Her extremity strength, balance and functional mobility have returned, and she continues to make progress in therapy. She is now able to enjoy gardening, hiking and spending time with her family.

I am humbled to recognize the truly impressive recovery Mindy has made. Her strength and positivity in the face of such adversity is remarkable. As such, it is my pleasure to wish Mindy the best as she continues to reclaim her health and life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber on Wednesday, September 12, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted "Yea" on roll call votes 394, 395, and 396.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF IAFF LOCAL 3886

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 20th Anniversary of International Association of Fire Fighters Local 3886 of Spotsylvania, a brave group of men and women who every day put their service to the community above self. Additionally, I would like to recognize that this year is the 100th anniversary of the IAFF: celebrating a century of progress through unity.

IAFF Local 3886 is made up of over 125 full-time members who help to keep and protect the citizens of Spotsylvania County, Virginia. To accomplish this incredible task, Local 3886 operates 24/7 out of six fire stations throughout the county and 13/5 at an additional four. With advanced life support and specialty equipment, the men and women of this proud organization provide a service for which mere thanks is never enough. As professional firefighters, they are true to the name; professionalism, dependability, and distinction underlies the entirety of their work.

The IAFF as a whole provides firefighters for many different operations, including to help protect the men and women of our armed forces. The services of the IAFF extend to firefighting crews for military bases throughout the country and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of the IAFF and IAFF Local 3886. Words alone cannot express our gratitude. May God bless the operations of the IAFF and Local 3886, and I look forward to seeing their excellence for many years into the future.

REVIEWING CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ETHIOPIA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we held a hearing at the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, which I chair.

Our first order of business was to note that today many Ethiopians are celebrating the start of the New Year under the Ethiopian calendar. To our Ethiopian friends who observe the new year, I wish to say "Enkutatash"—Happy New Year.

Many of the hearings that this subcommittee holds are hearings of condemnation—for abuses of human rights, for failures of governance, and for holding accountable those who betray the public trust.

Yesterday's hearing, however, struck a different tone—one not of condemnation, but of commendation for the great strides Ethiopia has made since Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed assumed authority in April of this year.

Consider where we were just over a year ago. A State of Emergency existed, and thousands of political prisoners languished in jail. A cold war standoff existed between Ethiopia and its neighbor Eritrea.

As this subcommittee pointed out in a hearing we held in March of 2017, "increasingly repressive policies have diminished political space and threaten to radicalize not only the political opposition but also civil society by frustrating their ability to exercise their rights under law."

In response to this, I introduced, along with original cosponsors KAREN BASS and MIKE COFFMAN, H. Res. 128, a resolution "Supporting Respect for Human Rights and Encouraging Inclusive Governance in Ethiopia." The resolution set forth milestones which needed to be met, and passed thanks to the leadership of many—including Chairman ED ROYCE who guided the Resolution through Foreign Affairs Committee markup and Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY, who scheduled a vote on H. Res. 128 that passed the House unopposed and sent a clear message of Congressional resolve on the need for civil and political reform in Ethiopia.

But success of this measure was due in largest part to the efforts of the Ethiopian diaspora community in the United States, which came together to demand that egregious human rights abuses immediately cease, and that fundamental human rights must be promoted and protected for all in Ethiopia.

Indeed, one of the greatest collateral benefits brought about by passage of H. Res. 128 is the political effectiveness of the Ethiopian American community, which provided a textbook civics lesson for all of us to admire. It is thanks to their tireless efforts of contacting your congressional representatives, of making your case in a persistent and respectful manner that helped spur Congress to action.

Since assuming office, Prime Minister Abiy has begun to implement some of the very reforms that H. Res. 128 called for. He has released thousands of political prisoners, and lifted the state of emergency, for example.

But he has also reached out to the diaspora community, catalyzed an end to a schism that had plagued the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, and initiated an historic peace deal between Ethiopia and Eritrea this past July. Indeed, it is hoped that his domestic reforms will also inspire Eritrea, which remains a repressive regime, to undertake similar internal reforms.

Just a few weeks ago, Ranking Member KAREN BASS and I visited the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa, where we met with Prime Minister Abiy and a broad array of individuals and groups, including His Holiness, Abune Mathias I. One impression I had—was of a profound feeling of change and optimism.

For what he has accomplished in less than half a year, Prime Minister deserves praise and encouragement. Yet we still must keep in mind that expectations have been raised, and the reforms he has begun must continue.

For example, the notorious Charities and Society Proclamation and the Anti-Terrorism Proclamation, both passed in 2009, remain on the books and thus retain the potential to stifle legitimate civil society organizations and political speech.

Many former prisoners and torture victims still demand justice. Ranking Member BASS and I met with a group of torture victims in Addis Ababa, and what they described as having been done to them was horrific. One refrain we heard, including from the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, is that there is a need for Truth and Reconciliation in order for the country to move forward.

There also needs to be an opportunity for people who have been displaced to return home. Catholic Bishop Abaraham Desta of Meld recently brought to my attention that over two and a half million people are internally displaced and require the government's immediate attention, especially by providing education for displaced children, as the school year has already started.

The economy needs to grow to provide jobs for the many youth, including those who participated in protests and civic disobedience. Reforms in the economic sector, including liberalization and deregulation as well as an opening of economy to ethnic groups that have not been fully enfranchised, needs to continue.

It has also been said that the reforms begun by Prime Minister Abiy represent a "once-in-a-generation opportunity for Ethiopia." It is thus absolutely crucial that this opportunity not be squandered.

With this in mind, the United States must remain a partner Ethiopia can call upon. We collaborate on counter-terrorism measures, we support and are grateful for Ethiopia's contribution to peace keeping missions—indeed, with 12,000 troops deployed, Ethiopia is the largest contributor to UN peacekeeping missions worldwide—and we must continue to encourage Ethiopia to participate in our IMET military professionalization programs.

I do believe, having met the man and had an opportunity to engage in substantive discourse with him, that Prime Minister Abiy is the right man at the right time, and is therefore deserving of our support.

RECOGNIZING MR. GARY GREEN FOR RECEIVING A PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM THE HEALTHSOUTH REHABILITATION HOSPITAL OF ALTOONA

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Gary Green of Huntingdon, PA, one of the winners of the 25th annual Personal Achievement Award from the HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Altoona. This award is given to encourage and recognize those who have made an outstanding effort to deal with or overcome a disability. This year, Mr. Green has earned that distinction.

Mr. Green suffered a stroke in October of 2017 that affected his speech and body. Among his many challenges were numbness and weakness on the left side of his body, difficulty in performing daily tasks, and impaired memory. Mr. Green, aided by a positive attitude and the strong support of his wife, followed the therapy plan established at HealthSouth with tremendous success. Today—nearly a year later—he is able to walk, complete his daily living skills, speak clearly and swallow safely.

It is my honor to congratulate Mr. Green on his remarkable progress and promising improvements, as I believe that it is through role models like him that we all can learn to overcome our hardships. Furthermore, I am happy to recognize him for his perseverance, and I wish him the best as he continues to overcome this adversity.

RECOGNIZING RETIREMENT OF CHIEF DANNY BOWMAN

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a servant leader in my district who has made a tremendous difference in the lives of thousands in Forsyth County, Georgia. For more than half a century, Chief Danny D. Bowman has served as a Georgia firefighter displaying the values of selflessness, honor, and patriotism.

Chief Bowman is an Atlanta native and veteran of the United States Air Force. He began his career as a firefighter in Atlanta in 1968. After serving with the Atlanta Fire Department, he joined the Fulton County Fire Department in 1977.

Bowman came to Forsyth County as a division chief in 2001 and began serving as the county's director of emergency management in 2002. He took the reins as Fire Chief in 2003. Forsyth County Commission Chairman Todd Levent credits Chief Bowman with "making the local department what it is today."

Chief Bowman will officially retire this October, and I commend him for a career of sacrificial service to Forsyth County and the great state of Georgia.

CELEBRATING DONI MILLER'S 25 YEARS OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life profession of Doni Miller of Toledo, Ohio. Doni has given herself to the practice of public health administration and is being recognized in a silver anniversary celebration tomorrow evening.

After serving as an administrator in a public hospital, Doni took over the helm of Toledo's then-struggling Federally Qualified Health Center in 1993. Under her able leadership and steady guidance, Doni was able to turn around the ailing system within a few years and turn it into a premiere organization which is a model for others. Now, 25 years later, the Neighborhood Health Association is a conglomerate of fourteen clinics in neighborhoods throughout Lucas County, Ohio serving well the health care needs of thousands of people. Its clinics are a medical home for some of the most vulnerable among us and the services provided are life changing and life altering.

It is impossible to separate the growth and success of the Neighborhood Health Association from Doni Miller. Her skill at selecting the right person for the job, providing opportunity and accomplishment, has been an important part of the organization's incredible achievements. Doni Miller has sacrificed and persevered to bring the agency to the outstanding organization it is today. She has initiated creative and unique approaches to continue to develop the Neighborhood Health Association, and nurtures talent along with her.

Because of her intimate knowledge of health care delivery, Doni's counsel is sought after by

many, including myself. Her knowledge and advice is respected and well-earned. She is equally known for her ardent support of the rights of women and people who are underprivileged. In addition to her role as CEO of the Neighborhood Health Association, Doni Miller also served as President of the Toledo Lucas County Port Authority, is a founding member of the Black Women's Democratic Caucus, and has served on several other Boards and Commissions. She has been a political analyst for local television including Conklin and Company and Toledo Up-front. For several years she has hosted Bridges, a local public affairs television program focusing on important social and economic issues facing our community and nation. Just a few of the recognitions awarded to her include the Chamber of Commerce ATHENA Award, the YWCA Milestones Award, the state Democratic Women's Caucus Award, the African American Legacy Award and the 2016 NAACP Freedom Fund Award.

Her most important role is that of mother to a young woman successful in her own right. Doni Miller is a true community leader. Her abilities, compassion and leadership have lifted up community. She notes she is most inspired by Nelson Mandela's quote, "The elimination of poverty is not charity, it is justice." Doni Miller truly lives this creed and I am so proud to join our citizens in paying tribute to her.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WILLIAM WOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of William Wood Elementary School, an educational mainstay in the Victoria community.

The school's namesake, Mr. William Wood, was born in 1861 and died of pneumonia in 1900 at the age of 39. He married Nellie Borland on June 17, 1890. They owned and operated a ranch east of Telferner, Texas where they were prominent residents of the community. Their 5 children were Nellie, Frank P., Margaret, Corine, and Jessie. Upon his passing, his wife donated ten acres of land for the site of William A. Wood Memorial High School. It's assumed that being a former teacher herself had something to do with her choice of commemoration.

Construction began in 1918 and took two years to complete. On September 13, 1918, The Victoria Daily Advocate wrote: "The schoolhouse is beginning to go undercover as Mr. Gruy is putting up the framework of the roof". The building consisted of four classrooms with two rooms on either side of a large hallway. Construction of the school was not finished until 1920.

William A. Wood Memorial High School was added to the Shiller-Hood School District, which consisted of several small neighborhood schools. By the late 1940s, however, William A. Wood High School became the Shiller-Hood District's only school. In 1956, the Shiller-Hood School District ceased to exist, and the Victoria Independent School District