

HONORING JANET BAGLIERI

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month to honor my constituent and ovarian cancer survivor, Janet Baglieri.

For as long as Janet can remember, she's had a sour stomach. That's why in 2010, when she experienced prolonged periods of abdominal bloating and cramping, she initially didn't think much of it and simply chalked it up to her long history of stomach sensitivity.

Eventually, after months of discomfort, she went to the doctor who referred her to a gastroenterologist for a colonoscopy. It was during this routine colonoscopy that doctors discovered Janet's ovarian cancer, and in August of that year she was diagnosed with stage 3c ovarian cancer. After undergoing surgery, doctors removed two large masses from her ovaries and performed a full hysterectomy.

During Janet's battle with ovarian cancer, she received genetic counseling and testing and discovered that she carries a BRCA2 genetic mutation. In contrast to other cancers, there is a much stronger hereditary component in ovarian cancer. Inherited genetic mutations cause roughly 20–25 percent of ovarian cancer cases compared to 5–10 percent of cancer cases overall, and BRCA1 and BRCA2 are the commonly inherited genetic mutations that cause ovarian cancer.

While genetic information is ideally applied in the context of cancer risk management and prevention, it increasingly plays a role post-diagnosis in guiding treatment options. Such is the case with Janet, who recently began taking PARP inhibitors after being diagnosed with a recurrence. PARP inhibitors are an emergent class of targeted therapies that work by blocking the growth of cancer cells and are typically taken long-term. For BRCA positive women with ovarian cancer like Janet, PARPs have proven to be a lifeline.

Today, Janet is an 8-year survivor. She has experienced the ups of remission and the downs of recurrence, all the while showcasing bravery and strength throughout her journey and never missing a beat in taking care of her family.

Sharing stories like Janet's is an important way to spread awareness not only this month, but every month. Awareness is particularly impactful when it comes to ovarian cancer because there is no effective screening tool. It is notoriously hard to diagnose and progresses quickly and aggressively, often with vague or altogether absent symptoms. As a result, most ovarian cancer cases are diagnosed in the late stages, when treatment options are limited and chances for survival are diminished. Less than 50 percent of women diagnosed with ovarian cancer live five years beyond their diagnosis.

Janet is beating the odds and serves as an inspiration to all of us. In honor of Janet and every other woman who has faced an ovarian cancer diagnosis, I support designating September as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

HONORING HANA STITH

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Mr. BANKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Hana Stith. Hana was a fixture in the greater Fort Wayne area and played an integral role in unifying our community.

A truly dedicated citizen of Fort Wayne, Hana devoted her life to the service of others and to the preservation of history. As one of the first African American teachers hired by Fort Wayne Community Schools, Hana was a trailblazer. She took it upon herself to ensure a brighter future for those who would follow her. She refused to leave any child behind and took the time to give attention to students struggling with reading and math.

In addition to preparing children for the future, she worked to help ensure that her community did not forget the past. As a co-founder of the African/African American Historical Society of Allen County, she worked tirelessly to preserve the heritage of all citizens in the greater Fort Wayne community.

Her pioneering efforts with the Fair Housing Group, the Panel of American Women, and the Fort Wayne Board of Safety, reminds us all that one individual truly can make a difference in the lives of those around them. Throughout her entire life, she remained steadfast in her faith as a member of the Turner Chapel A.M.E. Church, director of the Commission on Christian Education, and a longtime Sunday School instructor.

Hana Stith spent her life aiding, educating, and inspiring others. Her impact on Fort Wayne will continue to be felt for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING HARVEY T. LEWIS
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 100TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor a great American, Mr. Harvey T. Lewis, on the occasion of his 100th birthday. Mr. Lewis has led a life of service to his country, to his community, and to others.

Harvey T. Lewis was born on September 15, 1918 in Richmond, Virginia to Alberta Graves Lewis and John Edward Lewis. He is one of sixteen children raised by his parents. Mr. Lewis also had a twin sister, the late Evelyn Alberta Lewis. Mr. Lewis attended Armstrong High School in Richmond, Virginia. After his father's passing, Mr. Lewis left school to work and help support the family.

A true man of service, Mr. Lewis served his country in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II as a sergeant. He went on to hold various positions in the federal government. After 28 years of government service, Mr. Lewis retired as Special Assistant to the Secretary for the U.S. Department of Commerce where he was a trusted aide.

Mr. Lewis is known for his work ethic and entrepreneurial successes. He worked as a

Pullman porter and was a member of the Brotherhood of the Sleeping Car Porters. He has owned and operated several businesses throughout his lifetime, including a neighborhood delicatessen in Prince George's County, Maryland and a cleaning service in Richmond, Virginia. Mr. Lewis was a cab driver in Washington, D.C. for many years and later became a licensed limousine driver. This led to the establishment of his limousine business, Limelighter Limousine Service. For 35 years, Mr. Lewis and his team provided limousine services to clients ranging from company executives to business owners to performing artists.

In addition to his work, Mr. Lewis is a longtime civic leader. In the 1960s, he was a civil rights advocate and used his familiarity as a professional driver in Washington, D.C. to provide scores of free rides to those attending the 1963 March on Washington. Rosa Parks requested Mr. Lewis as her driver to the United States Capitol for her Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony. Mr. Lewis truly believed in the value of being involved in our democracy. He was an active volunteer on numerous local, state, and presidential campaigns spanning from John F. Kennedy to Barack Obama. In 2008, at 89 years old, Mr. Lewis was one of the oldest active campaigners for Barack Obama. Upon meeting President Obama in 2012, just days after his 94th birthday, he was still an active campaigner.

The most important thing to Mr. Lewis has always been his family. He is married to his wife of ten years, the former Linda Ivey. He has one daughter Dr. Freda C. Lewis-Hall son-in-law Dr. Emerson R. Hall, Jr. three grandchildren Erin, Justin, and Austin and two great-grandchildren Michael, II and Emerson.

Mr. Lewis has been recognized for his outstanding service throughout his lifetime however, those who know him simply refer to him as "a good man." To some, Mr. Lewis is a dedicated member of his community, to others, a hardworking businessman. To his friends and family, Harvey T. Lewis is a man of faith and a devoted family man.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating Mr. Harvey T. Lewis on his 100th birthday. May God continue to bless him and his family.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JOHNNY
APPLESEED ARTS AND CULTURAL
FESTIVAL

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Johnny Appleseed Arts and Cultural Festival in Leominster, Massachusetts on Saturday, September 22, 2018.

Mr. Speaker, most of us know the story of Johnny Appleseed. I grew up hearing about his travels across the country—an American folk hero, who was said to wander barefoot while wearing a tin pot hat and carrying a sack of apples with him to help promote the growth of apple trees everywhere he went.

What many people do not know is that Johnny Appleseed's story is based on the life of a real man—John Chapman.