

In 2004, the Michigan Senate recognized Mr. Ratliff for courageous actions in donating a kidney to his best friend Omie Smith.

Mr. Ratliff's affinity for public service would eventually lead him back to public service. In 2006, he was named Chief of Staff for a Detroit City Council Member. A year later, he would return to his roots, becoming Inkster Police Department's Director of Emergency Management and Chief of Auxiliary Police.

In 2010, as a police officer, Mr. Ratliff was assigned to community policing. In 2014, his relentless hard work and tireless dedication to ensuring public safety while taking heed to the needs of the community led to his promotion to the rank of Sergeant. Just two years later, he would be promoted again to Commander.

In 2018, Mr. Ratliff's commitment to service and public safety would be rewarded with a promotion to Assistant Chief of Police of Inkster's Police Department.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Assistant Chief of Police William "Bill" Ratliff on his well-earned promotion and over two decades of selfless service to the people of Southeast Michigan.

THE TASTE OF FREEDOM—THE
REPUBLIC OF FREDONIA

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, December 21, 1826 marks the beginning of the Fredonian Rebellion. This was the result of a conflict between the Mexican government and Haden Edwards, a settler in Texas, and reflected the growing tension between Mexico and settlers in Texas. Settlers that Mexico had wanted to live in Texas.

Haden Edwards received his empresarial grant in 1825, which allowed him to settle up to 800 families in East Texas, near Nacogdoches. The land this grant included was surrounded by a mixture of Native American tribes and other settlers. From the beginning of Edwards' time in Texas, he was a controversial figure. He posted signs around Nacogdoches demanding that all landowners show evidence of their claims or forfeit their land. Some of these landowners held earlier grants from Spain and Mexico that dated back more than 100 years, but not all of these landowners possessed the necessary legal documentation.

Tensions between Edwards and Mexico escalated even more in March 1826, when Edward's son-in-law, Chichester Chaplin, won the mayoral election in Nacogdoches. The election was contested, and the political chief in San Antonio, José Antonio Saucedo, reversed the election results and ordered Chaplin to turn over his mayoral duties to his opponent, Samuel Norris.

In 1826, Mexico revoked Edwards' land grant and ordered him to leave Texas. A Mexican military commander even set out to Nacogdoches from San Antonio with 100 soldiers to enforce this resolution. Instead of leaving, Edwards vowed to recruit an army and win independence from Mexico. He was supported by the settlers he had brought to Texas. He also hastily signed a treaty with the Cherokee to strengthen his claim.

The newly minted republic only survived for about five weeks. When Mexican military forces arrived on January 31, 1827, the revolutionaries retreated back across the Sabine River to the United States. Not a single Cherokee warrior had shown up to join the revolt.

Though the Fredonian Rebellion accomplished little, it is viewed by some to be the true beginning of the Texas Revolution and eventual independence from Mexico. Citizens of Nacogdoches, inspired by the taste of freedom, would go on to welcome Sam Houston to their city and elect him to the first colonists' convention in 1833. General Sam Houston became the commander-in-chief of the Texas army. Thus, setting a course for revolution, independence, and liberty in 1836.

And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for votes Wednesday, December 19, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted: Roll Call No. 436 Aye; Roll Call No. 437 Aye; Roll Call No. 438 Aye; Roll Call No. 439 Aye; Roll Call No. 440 Aye; Roll Call No. 441 Aye; Roll Call No. 442 Aye; Roll Call No. 443 Aye; Roll Call No. 444 Aye; and Roll Call No. 445 Aye.

RECOGNIZING THE DALE CITY
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 2018 installation of officers for the Dale City Volunteer Fire Department. DCVFD is located in Prince William County Virginia, 25 miles from our Nation's Capital. The DCVFD goes on an average of 20,000 calls per year, aiding the 75,000 constituents in Dale City, Virginia.

Incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1967, the DCVFD serves as an organization of committed community members ensuring the safety of the families in Dale City. Funded strictly by the residents in Dale City, the Department has been able to significantly grow, opening up five stations in 50 years and having approximately 250 dedicated volunteers. From their bravery in action, to their presence with the youth in the community, DCVFD is readily available for the families of Dale City.

It is with great honor to include in the RECORD the names of the following Dale City Fire Department Officers:

- Chief—Christopher Hool
- Deputy Chief of Operations—Edgar Van Horn
- Deputy Chief of Administration—James Delaverson
- Deputy Chief of EMS—Barbara Brown
- Assistant Chief of Training—Darrell Hudson
- Assistant Chiefs—Stephen Chappell, Joseph Kerns, Michael Spencer

Captains—Eddy Dumire, Joshua Jensen, The Honorable Jeremy McPike, Marc Sherman, Sandra Sokol, Linda Wortham, Kimberly Batson

Lieutenants—Thomas Borsari, Michael Cajayon, Simon Courtman, Thomas Mazzo, Daniel Moran, Patrick Palacios, Donovan Stewart, John Van Horn

Sergeants—Philip Anthony, Robert Best II, Andrew Kelly, Robert Willis, Jabin Young, Stephanie DeFreitas, Bradley Gray, Matthew Werner

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President—Walter Grochala
Vice President—Kimberly Batson
Secretary—Ricardo Hernandez
Treasurer—Robert Best II
Directors—Victor Angry, Eddy Dumire, James Jones, Gregory Shalawyo II, Edgar Van Horn, Leslie Van Horn, Matthew Werner

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President—JoAnn Ferguson
Vice President—Dorothy Hudson
Secretary—Nicole Foster
Treasurer—Cindy Van Noppen

While a new executive board has been elected and new officers sworn in, the mission of DCVFD remains the same. Their motto, Second to None, amplifies their dedication of preparedness, safety, and strong community service. Over the past 50 years, DCVFD has educated and mentored the youth in Dale City, not only teaching fire safety education, but also strengthening community relations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleague join me in recognizing the men and women of the Dale City Volunteer Fire Department for their service to our country and steadfast commitment to their community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACKY ROSEN

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. Speaker, on December 19th, on roll call votes 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, and 445, I was not present due to the severe illness of my brother, who sadly passed away later that evening. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on all ten roll call votes.

HONORING THE LIFE OF REBECCA
MAY WOOD STRINGER HOLBERT

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2018

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of Rebecca May Wood Stringer Holbert.

She was born on April 6, 1929, in Decatur, Alabama. Her father relocated his dental practice in 1936 and moved his wife and six children to a former boarding home on South Jackson Street in Montgomery. In 1937, she joined Dexter Avenue Baptist Church.

Her early education began at Alabama State Laboratory High School and Palmer Memorial Institute in Sedalia, North Carolina. She graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in Montgomery. She received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education in 1956 and