

and women of law enforcement step forward to protect us knowing full well the risks they face. Trooper Dowell's survivors include his parents, Mike and Rebecca, and his sister, Erica. His family is in my prayers.

IN HONOR OF THE 2019 CABARRUS
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NON-
PROFIT OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2019

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the NorthEast Foundation for receiving the 2019 Cabarrus Chamber of Commerce Nonprofit of the Year Award.

Carolinas HealthCare System NorthEast has provided high quality health care and assistance to those most in need in our community, including when my young son, Lane, was delivered there just a few years ago. The hospital's NorthEast Foundation has been the driver of so much development and advances to help better serve our people, including raising the money needed to build the Jeff Gordon Children's Center, the Breast Health Center, Cabarrus College of Health Sciences and expanding the Tucker Hospice House.

Led by President Charlie Sastoque, the NorthEast Foundation was formed in 1994 to support one of our community's most valued assets, NorthEast Hospital. Utilizing a community-driven and donor-centric approach, the NorthEast Foundation has provided a platform for which donors can provide to specialty areas that interest or impact them the most. This approach allows donors to directly see the results of their donation, from a new piece of equipment in the neurology lab to support for a scholarship for aspiring nurses and doctors. These creative programs have led directly to Cabarrus County being at the forefront of many medical innovations the last 25 years.

Our community—and my home—is a much better place to live because of the work of the NorthEast Foundation, and I wish them success for the next quarter century.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in congratulating NorthEast Foundation on their achievement of the 2019 Cabarrus Chamber of Commerce Nonprofit of the Year Award.

CONDEMNING THE STATE OF
AFFAIRS IN VENEZUELA

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2019

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the human rights atrocities that are occurring in Venezuela. Under the leadership of Nicolás Maduro, Venezuela has reverted from one of the most prosperous nations in South America to a country into severe crisis.

Venezuela's economy, once the envy of South America, currently faces one of the worst cases of hyperinflation in modern history. The International Monetary Fund expects the inflation rate to reach an astounding 10

million percent this year. Across the country Venezuelans are struggling to survive, facing immense difficulties putting food on the table or affording basic necessities such as fuel and medicine. More than 80 percent of Venezuelan households have insufficient access to food. As grocery stores become increasingly bare, hospitals too are running dangerously low on supplies as the medical system continues to crumble. Even though the Ministry of Health has stopped reporting national health data, we know that rates of malnutrition are rising, as are outbreaks of preventable diseases and the rate of infant mortality.

Madam Speaker, more than three million Venezuelan citizens have fled their home to nearby nations, including nearly 300,000 who have come to the United States seeking refuge in 2018. As the situation continues to deteriorate, tens of thousands of protestors have taken to the street to protest the economic and humanitarian crises and demand change. We must stand with those who are putting their lives on the line to ensure that future generations of Venezuelans live in a peaceful and prosperous country.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF GEORGE
KLEIN

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2019

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to George Klein, a Memphis original and one of the late Elvis Presley's longest and closest friends after they met at Humes High School in 1948, both aged 13. Mr. Klein died Tuesday evening in Memphis at the age of 83. George Klein, known as "GK," was Memphis disc jockey and protégé of pioneering disc jockey Dewey Phillips, hosting WHBQ-TV's "Talent Party" (1964 to 1973) and WMC radio's "George Klein's Rock & Roll Ballroom." He later hosted SiriusXM satellite radio's Elvis Radio channel until last year. Mr. Klein was inducted into the Memphis Music Hall of Fame in 2018. A member of King of Rock & Roll's "Memphis Mafia" traveling entourage, Mr. Klein was a groomsman in Presley's wedding to Priscilla Beaulieu in 1967 in Las Vegas (Elvis served as his best man when Mr. Klein married in 1970) and served as an Elvis pallbearer after the singer's death in 1977. Mr. Klein also had bit parts in some of Elvis' movies, including "Jailhouse Rock" in 1957. When Elvis was posthumously inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1986, it was his loyal friend Mr. Klein who gave the acceptance speech. For Memphis, Mr. Klein was our Bob Hope, hosting many civic affairs programs and producing the annual George Klein Christmas Charity Show that people looked forward to seeing for years and which raised a lot of money for various charities. As a radio personality, he had a variety of career highlights, hosting Johnny Cash's radio debut; bringing the first African American recording artists—Fats Domino, Sam Cooke, James Brown, and Jackie Wilson—to play on live Memphis television; and introducing The Beatles when they played the Mid-South Coliseum in August 1966. Everybody loved George Klein. He was always cheerful and up-

beat and made life better for all he met; you could say he helped make your day. Mr. Klein very closely followed Memphis State and later University of Memphis sports, particularly basketball. University of Memphis basketball coach John Calipari said he used to talk to Mr. Klein before basketball games and called him "an unbelievable ambassador" for Memphis. George and I had a mutual friend in Irvin Salky, who was his contemporary and occasionally his counselor. Priscilla, who visited my office last month, recognized Mr. Klein's influence. She released a statement Tuesday evening calling Mr. Klein "a legendary broadcaster," adding "but he was so much more to our family. George has been there from the beginning . . . He was a true Memphian and always made it feel like home on trips back to Graceland. I will forever cherish our memories together, they will stay with me always." George was my friend and his was a life well-lived. He will be missed.

PASSING OF SHIRLEY RODRIGUEZ
REMENESKI

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2019

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor my friend, Shirley Rodriguez Remeneski, a dear friend and fellow New Yorker who passed last week. Shirley was an inspiration to all of us, a trailblazer and a leader. To me, she was a friend. Her passion was for people and community and her rich career encapsulates those values.

In 1965, she created and directed the first Social Services Unit in the Bronx Borough President's Office under the leadership of Herman Badillo and, later, Robert Abrams. Six years later, she became the District Administrator for then-Congressman Herman Badillo, serving as a vital bridge between New York City and Washington, D.C.

Shirley's next step was in the Koch Administration, working as Assistant Deputy Mayor for affirmative action, intergovernmental relations, and community development in South Bronx, Harlem and other underdeveloped areas in New York City.

When President Carter visited South Bronx, calling it the nation's disgrace, Shirley became the Legislative Coordinator for the South Bronx Development Organization. In that role, she secured funding for vital programs like Bathgate Industrial Park and the Charlotte Gardens Housing Development Project. She helped to create the South Bronx Job Corps Center, and other land revitalization projects. By helping South Bronx become an Empowerment Zone, she channeled needed business development and economic opportunity to the area.

Later, as Executive Director of Governor Mario Cuomo's Office for Hispanic Affairs she initiated the Puerto Rico Exchange of Officials Program to enhance governmental services to Puerto Ricans on the island and in New York state. In 2002, Governor Pataki appointed her Senior Vice President at the Empire State Development Corporation's Economic Development Division.

While Shirley's professional accomplishments are impressive, to me she was so much