

Worker of the Year (NASW), 1975; Humanitarian of the Year, Federal Women Employees Association, 1975; Founders Award, New Orleans Chapter, National Association of Black Social Workers, 1979; Doctor of Humane Letters, Dillard University, 1993; and she also was one of four women honored by the New Orleans YWCA for lifetime of service to the community. Millie Charles was hailed as a life-long crusader for equality during a ceremony in which she was presented The Times-Picayune Loving Cup on Tuesday June 24, 2013. Throughout her life, Charles, a native of New Orleans' Central City, has said consistently that anything she might have accomplished was the result of a group effort.

Madam Speaker, I honor the work of Mrs. Millie Ruth McClelland Charles.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 11, 2019

Ms. MOORE. Madam Speaker, I missed Roll Call vote number 72 on February 8, 2019. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE JOHNSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 11, 2019

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call No. 74—MTR on H.R. 840 and "yea" on Roll Call No. 75—Final passage of H.R. 840.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KATIE PORTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 11, 2019

Ms. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for votes on Monday, January 28, 2019 due to a delayed flight. Had I been present, I would have voted on "YES" on roll call votes 52, 53, and 54.

HONORING GWENN KUSKIN
FELDMAN

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 11, 2019

Ms. FRANKEL. Madman Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Gwenn Kuskini Feldman, a beloved constituent of Florida's 21st Congressional District. Gwenn will be remembered as a loving mother and sister, generous friend, and the grandmother who never said no to her grandkids—Ellie, Ben, and Ruby.

I was introduced to Gwenn through her son, my colleague from New Jersey—Congress-

man JOSH GOTTHEIMER. Gwenn was a woman who stood strong in her convictions. She wasn't afraid to give me a report on how I was doing as her Congresswoman or speak her mind about issues of the day. Above all, she truly cared about the future of our country.

Gwenn's contribution to our community came from her immeasurable amount of love. Before moving to Florida, she spent years working with preschool children at Congregation Beth El in South Orange, New Jersey. Her dedication to the growth of our youths continued in Florida. Countless loved ones honored her memory through donations to Jewish Adoption & Family Care Options' (JAFCO) Gwenn Feldman Fund for Fun.

In facing this loss, I am reminded of a Hannah Senesh poem, "There are Stars" or Yesh Kochavim in the original Hebrew. The first few lines embody Gwenn:

There are stars whose radiance is visible on earth
though they have long been extinct.
There are people whose brilliance continues to light
the world even though they are not longer among the living.

Gwenn's star continues to shine bright through her children and the lives of the many she impacted. I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering this incredible American and celebrating the inspiring life she lived.

HONORING CAPTAIN ROGER
HARLESS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 11, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Captain Roger Harless and honor his commitment to public service and our community.

Mr. Harless was born in Berkeley, California and grew up in the nearby towns of Lafayette and Moraga with his brother, Paul. In May of 1990, he joined the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. He was in the first Fire District class of paramedics and kept his certification throughout his entire career. In April 2003, he became the captain of the district's paramedics team, where he worked diligently to serve and protect the people of Contra Costa County. In 2018, Captain Harless was a member of the first group to complete Hazardous Materials training. Mr. Harless passed away on January 11, 2019 from an illness acquired in the line of duty. He spent 29 years at the Contra Costa Fire Protection District, rising to the rank of Captain at Station 11.

Mr. Harless was dedicated to public service and our community. He cherished the time he spent mentoring new recruits and his fellow firefighters. Mr. Harless also mentored children in our community as a youth basketball and soccer coach. One of his joys was watching talent develop, whether at the fire station, on the court or on the field.

Mr. Harless leaves behind a loving and devoted family. He was married to his wife, Karen, for nearly 35 years. He was the father of Jessica, Martin and Kelsie and the grandfather to Sophia, Claire, and Mattisyn. He was adored by his wife, children, grandchildren, extended family, friends and many others throughout our community.

Madam Speaker, we thank Mr. Harless for his dedication to public service. For this reason, it is fitting and proper that we honor and remember him here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. W. GREGORY STEUBE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 11, 2019

Mr. STEUBE. Madam Speaker, I missed this vote series due to a death in the family. Had I been present, I would have voted nay on Roll Call No. 72; yea on Roll Call No. 73; yea on Roll Call No. 74; and yea on Roll Call No. 75.

REMEMBERING MIKE BOWEN

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 11, 2019

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Memphis businessman Mike Bowen who was killed in a car accident in Costa Rica on Saturday but who will be long remembered for his grace in giving others, including formerly incarcerated individuals, a second chance. He was 61. Mr. Bowen was the CEO of Champion Awards and Apparel, a company that grew out of Custom Print, founded in 1979, now the largest local licensee of University of Memphis-branded merchandise. Mr. Bowen was a 1979 graduate of then-Memphis State University and was active in its alumni association. He was also an active member of the Tiger Scholarship Fund, the Beale Street Merchants Association, the Greater Memphis Chamber of Commerce, the Memphis Jaycees, Leadership Memphis and the Special Olympics. For years, Mr. Bowen coordinated the Memphis Business Journal's Small Business Awards ceremony.

Growing up in Parkway Village, he said his mother taught him that the only color he and his brother should see is green, hopefully with a "Benjamin" on it. In 2007, Bowen made the principled decision to hire people with felony convictions for his business in a program that he called Late Bloomers, begun in 2007. By late 2016, 18 of his 48 employees had been formerly incarcerated. Mr. Bowen said he hired the men and women because his company was doing 20th Century work in the 21st Century and need people willing to work hard and sweat. In exchange, they received a living wage and a lot of guidance on staying straight, including meeting their legal obligations. Known for hugging his employees, Mr. Bowen called many of them "heroes" for overcoming adversity and sticking with hard work. I want to express my condolences to his wife, Suzie, and his sons Colby and Michael, his extended family and his many friends. He led a good life.