

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 Kuskinn 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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 11, 2019

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was absent from votes last week for personal reasons.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 72; YEA on Roll Call No. 73; NAY on Roll Call No. 74; and YEA on Roll Call No. 75.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 11, 2019

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on May 17, 2018, had I been present, I would have voted no on Roll Call vote No. 198 and No. 199.

On May 18, 2018, had I been present, I would have voted no on Roll Call vote No. 203.

HONORING SAND IN MY SHOES
AWARD RECIPIENT TONY ARGIZ**HON. DONNA E. SHALALA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 11, 2019

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of Tony Argiz, recipient of this year's prestigious Sand in My Shoes Award from the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce. Tony Argiz is an exemplary community leader and illustrates the "sand in my shoes" tenet of life that sets Miami apart as a fantastic place to live and work.

The Sand in My Shoes Award takes its name from a letter Damon Runyon wrote to his friend Bill, a Hollywood movie producer, detailing why he had opted to stay in South Florida rather than return to California to write a movie script. He wrote:

"The truth of the matter is, Bill, we've got sand in our shoes. It's pretty difficult to explain that to anyone who doesn't know what it means. It means a land covered with sunlight . . . warm and soft. It means white and pink houses, with red and blue and green roofs . . . It means palm trees whispering mysteriously and tall melaleucas nodding their plumed heads to every breeze. It means big fat porpoises playing in Biscayne Bay and gaunt pelicans patrolling the sky at dusk, and folks fishing from bridges all day. . . . It means Hialeah and stately avenues of giant palms and pink flamingo, black swan and wild duck. . . . Turquoise blue waters of the ocean lapping white beaches and always the sun shining down in kindly warmth. . . . It means Bimini where the big game fish lurk and the nearby Keys where the ghosts of bearded old buccaneers still guard their buried treasure. . . ."

Originally from Cuba, Tony Argiz came to the United States with Operation Pedro Pan. He lived at a Catholic boarding school in Tampa until his parents came over, five years

later. He credits his early years in Florida with giving him the hunger for education, for hard work, and for success. He later attended Florida International University on a baseball scholarship, an experience that taught him the value of teamwork.

Today, Tony is Chairman and CEO of Morrison, Brown, Argiz & Farra, LLC, one of the top 40 accounting firms in the nation. In 1986, he was appointed to Florida's Board of Accountancy, which he later chaired. He has served on the American Institute of CPAs Nominations Committee and on the PCP Executive Committee and its Technical Issues Committee. He is also a leader among South Florida nonprofit organizations, as chairman of the Adrienne Arsht Center Foundation and of Facts About Cuban Exiles.

I am pleased to recognize the contributions of my friend Tony to the greater Miami area and to celebrate his extraordinary achievements as a community leader.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 11, 2019

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained at the time of the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call No. 70; "yea" on Roll Call No. 72; "yea" on Roll Call No. 73; "yea" on Roll Call No. 74; and "yea" on Roll Call No. 75.

RECOGNIZING THE RACHEL CARSON
COUNCIL'S "CLEAR CUT"
REPORT**HON. JAMIE RASKIN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 11, 2019

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the important work of the Rachel Carson Council (RCC), which is named after the visionary marine biologist, nature writer and environmentalist who was a proud resident of Silver Spring, Maryland.

Founded and based in Bethesda, the RCC pays tribute to Rachel Carson's imperishable legacy by linking environmental, health, and social policy solutions "with the goal of building a more just, sustainable, and peaceful future."

The RCC recently released a comprehensive report called "Clear Cut," examining wood pellet production and its adverse effects on the health and sustainability of our forests and communities. The report details the process by which Southeastern forests are being cut down, chopped up, and dehydrated before being shipped and burned as carbon-intense fuel.

According to the report, despite being touted as a "green" alternative to fossil fuels, the sourcing of wood pellets contributes to widespread deforestation and pollution throughout much of the American Southeast. In North Carolina alone, the largest producer of wood pellets, Enviva, clear cuts more than 50 acres of forest each day. Left standing, these forests would help control the climate, maintain the

biodiversity of our ecosystems, and filter our air and water.

Following this environmentally invasive sourcing process of clear-cutting, pellets are burned, producing Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), particulate matter (PM), nitrogen oxides (NO), and carbon monoxide (CO₂), all of which pose serious health risks to human beings. Although the pollutants emitted by wood pellet mills are indiscriminately harmful to nearby inhabitants, the RCC report notes that wood pellet mills have been disproportionately constructed near poor communities of color, which are bearing the disproportionate burdens of deforestation, including poor air quality and increased flood risks.

Although the environmental drawbacks of wood pellet production are clear—wood pellet mills emit approximately 65-percent more CO₂ per megawatt hour than modern coal plants—the RCC argues that the industry has continued to mislead the public about the sustainability of this practice. Moreover, the RCC's report concludes that the expansion of the wood pellet industry is making it harder for us to maintain our environmental standards and address the global crisis of climate change.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to review the well-researched and well-documented "Clear Cut" report by visiting the RCC website at www.rachelcarsoncouncil.org. We must keep the profound concerns raised in this report in mind as we enact environmental, forestry, and energy policies and work to protect the public health and safety.

HONORING THE NATIONAL COURT
REPORTERS ASSOCIATION'S
COURT REPORTING AND CAPTIONING
WEEK**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 11, 2019

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of the National Court Reporters Association's Court Reporting and Captioning Week.

The NCRA supports and promotes excellence among those who capture and convert spoken words to text. These skills provide a foundation of public transparency for our courts, government hearings, and even our very own House of Representatives.

Court Reporting and Captioning Week is a nationwide initiative. It brings awareness to the importance of the work that court reporters and captioners do. Without the records they provide, assuring accountability and oversight over government institutions would be impossible. For this reason, court reporters, captioners, and the NCRA stand as part of the foundation of our democracy.

Madam Speaker, I commend the NCRA for its work and the work of its members, and I congratulate the NCRA on celebrating Court Reporting and Captioning Week.