

As a history teacher at Dunjee High School in Spencer Oklahoma, she instilled those principles into her students. Her steadfast commitment to ending racism and systemic discrimination inspired her to organize America's first sit in.

In August 1958, she and 14 of her NAACP walked up to a lunch counter they knew would refuse them, and they ordered a hamburger and a Coke. They were denied, but they did not waver. They knew what was on the line. In Ms. Luper's words, "within that hamburger was the whole essence of democracy."

At their own personal peril, they returned each day with more people until they broke the barrier. It was never easy. The protestors were verbally and physically assaulted. Ms. Luper received death threats.

Because of Ms. Luper and her students' fearlessness and determination, Katz Drug Stores integrated their lunch counters not just in Oklahoma City, but in Missouri, Kansas, and Iowa too. When the 1958 sit-in happened in Oklahoma City, a group of college students were inspired by what had taken place in Oklahoma City and took note. So in 1961 the students launched the Greensboro, N.C. sit-in at the Woolworth lunch counter—which fueled momentum within the civil rights movement.

It didn't end there. For years, Ms. Luper and others continued their fight. The sacrifices continued too. Authorities arrested Luper 26 times during her fight for freedom.

Clara Luper empowered young people to imagine a future brighter than their present and taught them how to make that future a reality. She changed lives and planted seeds of ethical leadership into those who were lucky to be mentored by her. Each of her former students talks about the pivotal role Ms. Luper played in instilling confidence, character, and dignity in them.

Generations reap the benefits of her sacrifice and the efforts to integrate not only businesses in Oklahoma City, but educational spaces. Ms. Luper integrated the History department at the University of Oklahoma, becoming the first Black graduate of that Master's program.

Her contributions are reflected across our state: in a namesake scholarship program at Oklahoma City University, a Corridor on the northeast side of Oklahoma City, a classroom at the University of Central Oklahoma, designating the Oklahoma City Public Schools District building as the Clara Luper Center, and naming the African American studies department at the University of Oklahoma after her.

As a lifelong Oklahoman, the representative of the fifth Congressional District, and as an American, I recognize how we are beneficiaries of Clara Luper's efforts to create a more just and equitable place to live. I cannot and will not take that history and her impact for granted.

Although we've come so far because of her sacrifices and the sacrifices of other heroes during the Civil Rights Era, there's still so much work left to do. Even with the numerous accolades given to her, the best way that we can honor Ms. Clara Luper is to uphold her legacy through a commitment to justice and equality in the policies that we propose. She knew that democracy isn't a spectator sport. It is our duty as a Congress and as Americans to make good on the constitutional promise of establishing justice and ensuring domestic tranquility. So we must continue to work for an

inclusive, equitable place for everyone to live and feel safe as well as build an economy where every American has the opportunity to thrive. I thank the sit-inners and I thank Clara Luper, for their resilience and giving us the torch to carry.

IN RECOGNITION OF EDWARD P.  
CHAPMAN

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 27, 2019*

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life of Edward P. Chapman, a decorated war veteran and Captain in the Springfield Police Department.

Mr. Chapman was born in Brattleboro, Vermont. In 1942 he enlisted in the United States Marines and served in the 5th Marine Division, 27th Marine Regiment. He defended our country during World War II and was honorably discharged in 1946 and awarded the Purple Heart following his service fighting in the Battle of Iwo Jima.

Upon returning home, Mr. Chapman joined the Springfield Police Department, where he served the people of Springfield for thirty years. He received his degree in criminal justice from Western New England College and later retired in the early 1980's as a Captain in the police department. After retiring, Mr. Chapman remained an active member of his community, attending mass at St. Patrick's Church in Springfield and belonging to American Legion Post No. 452, as well as fishing and golfing in his free time.

Surrounded by family, Mr. Chapman passed away on February 22, 2019, at the age of ninety-four. His dedication to serving both his country and his community will long be remembered by his growing family and all those who had the great privilege of knowing Mr. Chapman.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of Edward P. Chapman. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing his many years of dedication to his community.

KAYLEE MARONE

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 27, 2019*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kaylee Marone for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Kaylee Marone is a student at Pomona High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kaylee Marone is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kaylee Marone for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ANN WAGNER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 27, 2019*

Mrs. WAGNER. Madam Speaker, I had to return to my district unexpectedly for a family medical emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted: "nay" on Roll Call No. 90; "nay" on Roll Call No. 91; "nay" on Roll Call No. 92; "nay" on Roll Call No. 93; "nay" on Roll Call No. 94; and "yea" on Roll Call No. 95.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT  
OF COLUMBIA NON-DISCRIMINATION  
HOME RULE ACT OF 2019

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 27, 2019*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Non-Discrimination Home Rule Act of 2019 to end the unique applicability of the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 (RFRA) to the District of Columbia. My bill would protect the District's right to self-government, ensuring the District is treated the same as states, and defend LGBTQ and reproductive rights in D.C.

RFRA, which provides more protection for religious exercise than the First Amendment requires, applies to the federal government, the D.C. government and the territorial governments, but not to state governments. As RFRA does not apply to the states, under the principles of home rule, it should likewise not apply to the District.

While RFRA was designed to be a shield to protect religious freedom, it is being used, as evidenced by the Supreme Court's 2014 Hobby Lobby decision, as a sword to discriminate against the LGBTQ community and women. Members of Congress have used RFRA as a justification for trying—but failing—to overturn D.C. antidiscrimination laws. House Republicans have repeatedly tried since 2015 to nullify or block the District's Reproductive Health Non-Discrimination Act (RHND), which prohibits employers from discriminating against employees and their families based on reproductive health decisions, claiming, in part, that it violates RFRA. However, it appears that no one has challenged RHND's legality under RFRA in court.

My bill ensures that District residents are treated the same as residents of the states under RFRA. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

KRYSTLE MCCOMB

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 27, 2019*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Krystle