

successfully purchased and restored Beacon Pointe Apartments in Wilson. In 1997, WCIA restored and renovated Mercy Hospital, which was built in 1913 as one of three African American hospitals in North Carolina.

Mrs. Corbett's service to her community has received national and international recognition and awards, including the prestigious Nancy Susan Reynolds award, the Citizen Award for Outstanding Service to Citizens of Wilson, and the Pioneering Award for Exemplary Service in Community Economic Development. Mrs. Corbett has also been featured in several publications and books, including "To Right These Wrongs" and "Greater Freedom."

Mrs. Corbett leaves to cherish her memory, four children, Barbara Claudette Blackston of Wilson, North Carolina; Christopher Evans of Apex, North Carolina; Donald Ray Evans of Portsmouth, Virginia; and Alvin Quintin Corbett of Eastampton, New Jersey; and a host of relatives, friends, and loved ones.

Madam Speaker, as a devoted mother, friend, and public servant, Mrs. Fannie Mae Evans Corbett's passing will surely be felt by all whose lives she touched. She will forever be missed, but never forgotten in the City of Wilson and across the State of North Carolina.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2019*

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I had a family health emergency that required my personal attention at home and returned to Florida on February 28, 2019. This family health emergency resulted in me missing votes on H.R. 1112—Enhanced Background Checks Act. Had I been present, I would have voted YES on the Schneider, Jackson Lee Amendment, YES on the Van Drew Cunningham Amendment, NO on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 1112, and YES on final passage of H.R. 1112.

#### RECOGNIZING THE MEMORIAL TO THE 1913 ITALIAN HALL DISASTER

##### HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2019*

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize the dedication of the memorial to the Italian Hall disaster of 1913. Through their work to make this monument a reality, the village of Calumet and the Italian Hall Memorial Park Committee have ensured that the disaster and its victims are forever remembered by the people of Michigan.

For over 100 years, the area now known as Calumet was the heart of Copper Country, attracting thousands of Americans and immigrants from around the world, and producing more mineral wealth than the California Gold Rush. In response to long work days, low wages, and harsh work conditions, the Keweenaw chapters of the Western Federation of Miners voted to strike on July 23, 1913. The strike would last nine months—and though unsuccessful in achieving its goals in the short term, it marked a turning point for

Copper Country and the rights of the miners that called it home.

On Christmas Eve, 1913, hundreds of striking miners and their families gathered to celebrate the holiday on the second floor of Calumet's Italian Hall. However, a panic broke out after someone falsely shouted "fire" in the crowded hall. In the ensuing rush to escape the building, seventy-three people, including fifty-nine children, were killed. One hundred and six years later, the village of Calumet dedicated a new four-ton granite monument inscribed with the names of those lost in the Italian Hall disaster. The site of the Hall now serves as a place for quiet reflection and remembrance of tragedy as well as the history of the Upper Peninsula.

Madam Speaker, the Italian Hall disaster remains fixed in the memories of Michiganders more than one hundred years later. On behalf of my constituents, I would like to thank the Italian Hall Memorial Park Committee and the village of Calumet for their work to ensure that the tragedy and the lives lost there are never forgotten.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2019*

Ms. FRANKEL. Madam Speaker, on roll call vote 96, 97, 98, and 99, I was not present because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "NAY," "YEA," "NAY," and "YEA."

#### OBSERVING THE 27TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KHOJALY MASSACRE

##### HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2019*

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I rise in observance of the victims of the Khojaly Massacre, a barbarous atrocity committed against innocent Azerbaijani civilians. Tuesday, February 26, marked the 27th anniversary of this bloody episode.

The story is all too tragic. Khojaly, in the region of Nagorno-Karabakh, was surrounded by Armenian and Soviet troops in the fall of 1991. After bombarding the city these troops attacked on the night of February 25 and 26, killing 600 innocent Azerbaijanis, including elderly people, women, and children. Hundreds more were left severely disabled from the attacks. Over fifty people were killed with wanton brutality, many children lost parents, and eight whole families were wiped out.

Human Rights Watch described these attacks as a "massacre" and in a 1992 report stated that the attacks by Armenian and Soviet forces, "deliberately disregarded [the] customary law restraint on attacks." This massacre remains the darkest chapter in the Azerbaijan-Armenian conflict.

Unfortunately, the dispute over Nagorno Karabakh is still ongoing, despite the United States and the international community not recognizing the independent rule of the region

and supporting a negotiated settlement. I call on all parties involved to find a peaceful resolution to this decades old conflict.

I encourage my colleagues to join with me and the Azerbaijani people as they remember this tragedy.

IN MEMORY OF JUDGE KEVIN P. McMAHON

##### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2019*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise with great sadness to honor the life of Connecticut Superior Court Judge Kevin P. McMahon of Niantic, Connecticut who died too young at the age of 68 on February 18, 2019.

Madam Speaker, when news of Kevin's passing became known all across the state, there was an enormous outflowing of tributes and praise for the man described as "The People's Judge" for his amazing service in the criminal courts for over twenty-five years. He presided over big cases and small cases with great skill, displaying a warm and caring personality that balanced courtesy and adherence to the law with compassion for all who appeared before him. He had a sharp, delightful sense of humor and the court staff in every region he sat were professionally loyal to him because he treated them all with kindness and respect. He believed strongly in sharing his knowledge with his colleagues on the bench. He was an instructor at the Connecticut Judges' Institute and fellow judges often sought his advice on cases. Kevin was the president, and lone member, of the Black Point Judges Association, a position he was honored to hold. His knowledge of the law, his sense of humor, and, most importantly, his sense of fairness governed his decisions and made him a great judge.

Kevin was the past president of the New London/Washington County Providence College Alumni Club. He mentored students from Providence College, many of whom shadowed him during his time on the bench. The college honored him by presenting him with the Faithful Friar Award, and he was a season ticket holder for Providence College Basketball for many years.

Kevin spent summers at Black Point Beach at his family's summer home. Eventually, Patti and he became year-round residents. He was a member of the Black Point Association for many years. Kevin loved being a part of the beach community and over the years skillfully captained an array of powerboats. He was an avid reader and a serious student of history. Kevin was a sports enthusiast, as a loyal fan of the New York Giants, the Boston Red Sox, Boston Celtics and had great admiration for Tom Brady.

Kevin was also a devoted husband to the love of his life Patti McMahon and they had many happy years together at Black Point Beach which they made their permanent home. Patti is a highly skilled paralegal who worked for one of the premier law firms in Hartford—Riscassi and Davis—and their shared experience in the legal profession made them the perfect couple.

Mr. Speaker, I had known Kevin for many years when we were interns at the Hartford