

friends in celebrating his long life and the incredible impacts he's made. We wish him the happiest of birthdays and nothing but health and prosperity in the years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO THE MILWAUKEE  
URBAN LEAGUE

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2019*

Ms. MOORE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Milwaukee Urban League as it celebrates 100 years of service to the Milwaukee area Community. The Milwaukee Urban League was established in 1919 as an affiliate of the National Urban League (NUL) in response to the migration of African Americans who moved north from southern states in search of greater opportunities and a better way of life. They assisted in their transition to urban life and employment, helping African Americans in Milwaukee secure economic self-reliance, parity and power, and civil rights.

The Milwaukee Urban League become a hub and sought to meet the various needs of the African American Community. They established a medical clinic in the 1920s and sponsored a community center for holiday gatherings, youth recreation and crafts, and taught boxing skills. In 1926 the Urban League released a study that established the need to eliminate poor housing as a high priority. In subsequent years, it was instrumental in ending legalized racial discrimination in housing and creating the Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council which still exists today. In the 1930s, the Milwaukee Urban League established the Industrial Relations Project to improve job opportunities and working conditions through relationships with business establishments.

Over the years the Urban League has continued to promote employment and economic self-sufficiency through such initiatives as apprentice programs, and pre-employment skills training. Other employment help includes on the job placement and training and older workers and job ride programs. The Milwaukee Urban League has promoted business ownership and development through efforts such as the Franchise Initiative designed to help African Americans acquire franchises, thereby, generating wealth and increasing the number of jobs in the community. It hosts an annual Youth Leadership Summit to promote civic engagement.

The Milwaukee Urban League has been on the front lines of the struggle for equality by both performing research that establishes the case for change and taking actions that result in change to help the next generation succeed. The Urban League continues to collaborate on many issues to enhance the well-being of the community it serves to achieve positive outcomes, including: seeking alternatives to incarceration, working with organizations to speak out against hatred and bigotry, improving academic achievement and social growth among students, and eliminating barriers to employment including enhancement.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons I rise to recognize and pay tribute to the Milwaukee

Urban League as it celebrates its 100th anniversary and continues its efforts to benefit the Fourth Congressional District and the State of Wisconsin.

HONORING SHERIFF JOE MAX  
TAYLOR

**HON. RANDY K. WEBER, SR.**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2019*

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Madam Speaker, former Galveston County Sheriff Joe Max Taylor passed away on Monday, February 11, 2019.

Sheriff Taylor was a veteran, husband and father who dedicated his life to public service. His colleagues describe him as an innovator, mentor and a skilled politician. The Sheriff served Galveston County for 54 years, 19 of those years he served as sheriff.

Sheriff Joe Max Taylor's legacy is one filled with a deep love for his Galveston community. During his career, he assisted in growing the sheriff's office from nineteen deputies to more than 300 deputies. He was also instrumental in helping form the mental health division and the auto crimes task force.

Those who knew Sheriff Taylor know he was more than a sheriff, he was someone who did so much for our community. He will be greatly missed, and our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TEACHER  
VICTIMS' FAMILY ASSISTANCE  
ACT OF 2019

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2019*

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Teacher Victims' Family Assistance Act of 2019. It is well known that this country faces a gun violence epidemic. In fact, in the 2018 school year alone, there were 24 school shooting incidents. This is the highest annual number of school shootings in recent history, averaging out to one school shooting incident every seven and a half school days. The pain and heartache that result from this tragic and needless loss of life sends shockwaves through our communities, but especially through the families left behind. Today, our teachers must contend with not only the awesome responsibility of preparing our children for bright and meaningful futures, but also with protecting them from the very real threat of active shooters and others wishing to harm our children and grandchildren. Too often, the teachers themselves are casualties in this epidemic, leaving the families of the slain teachers, many with small children, unprepared financially.

The Teacher Victims' Family Assistance Act of 2019 directs the Secretary of Education to provide assistance to the immediate family members of K-12 teachers who are killed during their performance of duties at a public or

private school. This bill provides victims' families with funeral assistance; a death benefit payment to the surviving spouse, dependent child, or other next of kin; monthly living assistance for the surviving spouse; and undergraduate education assistance for each dependent child.

In time, it is my sincere hope that the need for the crucial assistance provided by this measure will not be necessary as fewer and fewer families are forced to cope with the sudden, tragic loss of a loved one at school. However, until that time, we must do all we can for our dedicated and hardworking teachers and their families, and that is exactly the spirit with which this legislation is put forward.

Madam Speaker, I urge this body to expeditiously pass this measure. Doing so will reaffirm America's solidarity, gratitude, and support for our nation's dedicated educators, who work tirelessly on behalf of our children.

COMMEMORATING THE TWENTY-  
FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
CRYSTAL CHORDS

**HON. TOM REED**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 2019*

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Crystal Chords.

The Crystal Chords are a group of extraordinary women who come together to share their love of music and sing a cappella in the barbershop style. For twenty-five years the women of Crystal Chords have graced the communities of the Corning-Elmira area, singing at a variety of community functions. They are a proud chapter of Harmony, Inc., a non-profit international organization, whose mission is to empower women through education, friendship, and a cappella singing in the barbershop style.

The barbershop quartets of the Crystal Chords share their talents throughout the year, singing for civic and charitable events. They have sung at community events such as the Corning Parade of Lights and Horseheads' Holly Days, and regularly perform at local churches. The Crystal Chords are committed to charity in their communities as they fundraise for the Food Bank of the Southern Tier at all of their concerts and events.

The Crystal Chords are proudly directed by the husband-wife team of Bill and Donna McKay. Their years of barbershop quartet experience and unwavering dedication have led the Crystal Chords from its inception twenty-five years ago to continued success today.

Twenty-five years of uniting members of our communities with music is certainly a cause for celebration. I congratulate the Crystal Chords on this impressive milestone and look forward to their continued success in the years to come.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Crystal Chords.