

Church and an officer and founding member of the Freeland Community Choir.

Frank is diversely active in his community. He is a contributing writer for the monthly Progress Magazine, and he enjoys researching family history and genealogy. Frank enjoys hiking and is an avid outdoorsman. He also currently serves as the secretary for the Hazelton Archery Club.

Stemming from his civilian employment with the United States Army at Tobyhanna Army Depot, Frank is dedicated to honoring and serving our veterans. He is part of the honor guard and a proud honorary member of American Legion Post 473 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5010. His community efforts were recognized by the Freeland American Legion Post when they named him Citizen of the Year in 2017.

It is an honor to recognize an outstanding individual like Frank as he accepts the Citizen of the Year Award. I am grateful for his many talents and his willingness to serve the people of Northeastern Pennsylvania, especially veterans. I wish him the best this St. Patrick's Day.

HONORING JOAN ROBERTA
WILLIAMS

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 18, 2019

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Joan Roberta Williams, who passed away on February 20, 2019 at the age of 86.

Mrs. Williams was named Miss Crown City in 1958 after being nominated by her colleagues at Pasadena City Hall. Though she was supposed to perform the ceremonial duties around the Rose Parade now performed by the Rose Queen, such as ribbon cuttings and appearances with the Mayor of Pasadena, the float on which Mrs. Williams was scheduled to appear was cancelled. Mrs. Williams was denied these honors after city officials discovered that she was African American.

It wasn't until New Year's Day of 2015 that Mrs. Williams finally appeared in the Rose Parade, this time in a float honoring "Inspiring Stories." After an article appeared in the Pasadena Weekly detailing her racist treatment nearly half a century earlier, Mrs. Williams received a formal apology from the

Mayor of Pasadena and was offered the opportunity to ride in the parade that had been denied to her, which she accepted as an opportunity for reconciliation.

I had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Williams in 2014, when the Pasadena non-profit Men Educating Men About Health honored her at a gala, where I had the opportunity to present her with their Woman of the Year Award. In the years between her original crowning and her eventual appearance in the Rose Parade, Mrs. Williams had a long career with Kaiser in Southern California, including several years in their Medicare office in my district. She volunteered for the Pasadena AIDS Service Center and with the Pasadena Unified School District, was honored on the floor of the California State Assembly, and had three children, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

When she finally made her appearance in the 2015 Rose Parade, Mrs. Williams said the experience was "especially important because [it pointed] out that with people of goodwill working to correct these mistakes, change can come. We hope it won't take so long, but when you look at our history, none of it has happened overnight, none of it has happened without a fight. The fight goes on." It is my honor today to recognize Mrs. Williams' legacy in that fight.