

Debby had two late sisters: Marcia, who was 18 years older and developmentally disabled and Gail, who was 10 years older but very close with Debby.

At Birmingham Southern, Debby majored in Elementary Education. Over spring break of her senior year in college, she went to Capitol Hill to look for a job. She met the personal secretary for Bill Nichols, Mary Elva Rice and was hired as a caseworker. She began working in 1969 and continued working as a caseworker until Congressman Nichols died on December 13, 1988. Everyone in Nichols' office found other jobs, but Debby stayed with the Third District of Alabama office. Congressman Glen Browder replaced Nichols in a special election on April 5, 1989 and she continued working for the Third District. Debby handled scheduling, office manager duties and continued with casework. Congressman Browder stayed for the remainder of that term and two other terms before running for the U.S. Senate. When Bob Riley was elected in 1996, Debby stayed on to work with him also picking up coordinating tours and flags. After three terms, Riley successfully ran for Governor of Alabama and I was elected in 2002. Debby continued doing tours and flags, office management and casework.

During her time on the Hill, Debby was involved for about 20 years with the Capitol Hill Equestrian Society, which began while she was working for Congressman Nichols. They had meetings once a month and published a monthly newsletter.

Debby received awards from the Social Security Administration (SSA) and the Disabled American Veterans (DAV).

Debby has been with me since day one. If you polled the Third District, she is probably way more popular than me. She has institutional knowledge that cannot be replaced and we will miss her so much. Debby has a heart of gold and has touched so many lives. The Third District of Alabama won't be the same without her.

Madam Speaker, please join me in thanking Debby for her unwavering service to the people of Alabama.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
WALTER LOEBENBERG

HON. CHARLIE CRIST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. CRIST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the life of Walter Loebenberg, a community leader, advocate for the less fortunate, philanthropist and founder of the Florida Holocaust Museum.

As a young man, Mr. Loebenberg was forced by the Nazis to flee his native country of Germany for the United States. Mr. Loebenberg returned a few years later, where he honorably served the United States during the Battle of the Bulge. His service was so distinguished he was personally awarded a Bronze Star by General Dwight D. Eisenhower.

After the war, Mr. Loebenberg returned to the United States and moved to Florida where he managed local hospitals, became a philanthropist, and fought to improve the lives of the

blind, the hungry, and those who could not fight for themselves. He dedicated his life to improving the world, one act at a time.

In 1992, Mr. Loebenberg founded a Holocaust Museum at the Jewish Community Center of Pinellas County in Madeira Beach. This rapidly expanded into the Florida Holocaust Museum, opening in downtown St. Petersburg to great fanfare in 1998.

Mr. Loebenberg understood the importance of building a lasting tribute to the horrors and lives lost in the Holocaust—so that history might never repeat itself. His work, and his museum, will stand the test of time, as a testament, and a warning to all of us, and all who come after us. For the people of Pinellas County, the state of Florida, the U.S. House of Representatives, and a grateful nation, we honor the life of Walter Loebenberg.

HONORING THE LIFE OF EZEQUIEL
SANTIAGO

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, today, I join the rest of Connecticut in mourning the loss of State Rep. Ezequiel Santiago. Zeke was a dedicated public servant and a dear friend who was taken from his family, and his community, far too soon. Zeke was kind, welcoming, and a strong leader. He dedicated himself to bettering the Bridgeport community and those around him.

Raised in Bridgeport, Zeke entered politics at a young age, volunteering on numerous campaigns before running for office. He was a tireless advocate for underrepresented and minority communities, bettering the lives of thousands of his fellow citizens. His work was integral in securing funding for community organizations that benefitted families and children like the South End Community Center, the Sheehan Center, and the YMCA. Without any pomp or self-aggrandizement, he dedicated his life to doing the hard, necessary work that makes our government function.

Zeke's loss is felt by everyone lucky enough to know him and has created a hole that will not soon be filled. A grateful state and nation will strive to preserve his memory and carry on his legacy.

HONORING CAPTAIN JOHN
FREDERICK WILSON

HON. JOHN R. CURTIS

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. CURTIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain John Frederick Wilson, as he celebrates his 100th birthday.

Born on April 2, 1919 and raised in Park City, Utah, John Frederick Wilson, known affectionately as "Jack", was one of the few pilots trained at BYU. On December 11, 1941, four days after the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, he joined the Army Air Corps.

After learning to fly the four-engine B-24 Liberator bomber—an aircraft featured in the Hollywood film "Unbroken"—he was assigned

to the 90th bombing group in the Fifth Air Force of the Army Air Corps. He was sent by ship to Pearl Harbor, and then to New Guinea, where he became pilot and captain of a ten-member B-24 crew.

Jack and his crew were assigned to seek out and destroy the Japanese airstrips in the island Pacific. Given his prowess as a pilot, Jack and his crew were soon reassigned to reconnaissance missions to track the Japanese fleet. His beloved B-24 was stripped of all bombs, bomb bays, machine guns, and other defensive weapons, so that the weight could be replaced with extra gas tanks to support their long-distance reconnaissance missions. His biggest fear rapidly became encountering not enemy aircraft, but running out of fuel. "My career as a B-24 pilot basically consisted of long periods of boredom punctuated with moments of terror."

Jack and his crew were dispatched to a small airstrip on an island near Okinawa. They were assigned to fly five days a week to the North China sea, to track the Japanese fleet. He there became as member of the famed "Jolly Rogers" and was issued a card that he has carried in his wallet to this day: "Having been assigned to the best damned heavy bomb group, and having paid his dues, Captain Jack F. Wilson is hereby considered a member in good standing of the Jolly Rogers."

Jack refused to participate in the demonization of the Japanese that was popular during and after the war. "There are good people everywhere," he taught his children and grandchildren. At one time, a typhoon had threatened the island airstrip and the Okinawan people showed him a cave that he and his B-24 crew sheltered in, thereby saving their lives.

After the war, Jack used his flying skills to help locate wildfires and his people skills to create the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho, which bears his name.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to honor a native Utahn, the last remaining B-24 pilot from World War II, and extend warm greetings to Mr. Wilson on April 2, 2019, his 100th birthday. We commend him for his life of service and valor in defense of his country.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of Women's History Month, a time when we celebrate the women who have fought for women's equality and their achievements to our nation. As we gather to reflect on this important cause, it is important to recognize that today there are a record number of women in Congress, and I am proud to serve alongside each of them.

Throughout my life, I have been inspired by countless independent and accomplished women. From the beginning of my life, my mother Lillie Mae Johnson, a dedicated community volunteer, instilled in me a sense of confidence and self-worth. I have been blessed with the support of many such women throughout my political career, such as Cheryl Wattle, Mable White, Demetris Sampson, and