

With our unacceptably high rates of gun thefts and teen and veteran suicides, there is no doubt that Barbara's efforts have already achieved that goal. While it has already seen great success in Broward, Lock It Up! has tremendous potential to save countless more lives as it grows across Florida and beyond.

I am pleased to honor Barbara, and I thank her for her service to our community.

REMARKS ON H.R. 1957, THE
TAXPAYER FIRST ACT OF 2019

HON. KATIE PORTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2019

Ms. PORTER. Madam Speaker, while there are many beneficial provisions in H.R. 1957, Section 1102 should be stripped from the legislation. This section would prohibit the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) from ever establishing a free file system for taxpayers by codifying an existing contract between the IRS and private taxpayer preparation software companies (e.g. TurboTax, H&R Block, Intuit).

The National Consumer Law Center has previously written an opposition letter on this provision in the bill. Such a free filing system could save American taxpayers billions of dollars per year otherwise spent on taxpayer preparation services.

While individuals earning less than \$66,000 are currently eligible for free federal filing via private software companies due to the contract with the IRS, only 3 percent of such individuals take advantage of free filing, and millions more households outside the very modest income limit could benefit from an IRS-built system.

An IRS free file system could also have the benefit of ending a current, predatory practice: low-income taxpayers are upsold by taxpayer preparation services into costly add-on products like refund anticipation loans, which are essentially payday loans backed by future tax refunds.

Finally, even if the IRS does not have the capacity to build their own free file system, H.R. 1957 would preclude renegotiation of the current contract with private software developers in order to get better terms for taxpayers in a future, Democratically-controlled IRS.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. MAMIE
HUGHES' 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor a dynamic woman in my district. On May 3, 2019, Mamie Currie Hughes will celebrate her 90th birthday. While turning 90 is a major feat in itself, it's what she has done during these years that makes her so special. Mamie Hughes has been a civil and women's rights champion in Kansas City since the 1950's.

Born in Jacksonville, Florida, Ms. Hughes graduated from Stanton High School at sixteen years of age. At that young age, she left

Florida to attend Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee where she met her husband Leonard Hughes, Jr. Upon graduation in 1949, the couple married and moved to his hometown of Kansas City, Missouri.

Ms. Hughes taught elementary school upon arriving in Kansas City. By 1958, as a member of Community Committee for Social Action, she became part of a movement to abolish discriminatory practices of the major department stores in downtown Kansas City, Missouri.

During the 1950's and 60's she continued to fight segregation while also raising a family, after giving birth to five children. Even so, her commitment to her community never wavered. From 1957 through 1975, Ms. Hughes served with women of all races on the Panel of American Women, an organization that gave presentations describing how discrimination, racism and bigotry affects lives. These community discussions were often held in areas that blacks and other minorities were not welcomed. In 1972, Ms. Hughes was the first black woman elected to the Jackson County legislature where she served two terms. During her time in the legislature, Ms. Hughes was the Chair of the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) Board of Directors and its Commission on Aging. While at MARC, she assisted with the implementation of the 911 emergency assistance development and worked on the establishment of the Meals on Wheels program that provides food delivery for senior citizens.

In 1978, my House colleague, Rep. JOHN LEWIS, interviewed Ms. Hughes and recommended her to President Carter, who appointed her the Regional Administrator to ACTION/VISTA, the predecessor of AmeriCorps VISTA and the United States government agency that serves as the federal domestic volunteer agency. The agency's responsibilities included the domestic volunteer programs established under the Office of Economic Opportunity including the Foster Grandparents programs and the Peace Corps. It also assumed logistical support responsibilities for the volunteer programs of the SBA's Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) and the senior companion programs that later became the Senior Corps.

After her federal service, Ms. Hughes' became President of the Black Economic Union (BEU) of Greater Kansas City, one of the country's oldest community development corporations. During her tenure at BEU, Ms. Hughes's efforts focused on the stabilization and preservation of buildings with historic significance. That work ultimately laid the foundation for the Cleaver Plan, which resulted in Kansas City's Historic 18th and Vine Jazz District.

In 1986, Ms. Hughes resumed her governmental service and became the City of Kansas City, Missouri's Ombudsman for the Bruce R. Watkins (BRW) Roadway. Her responsibilities included working on behalf of residents affected by the construction of the BRW Roadway. During her tenure with the city, Ms. Hughes' reputation as a fierce neighborhood liaison grew because of her tireless dedication to assisting those adversely affected.

Over her lifetime, Ms. Hughes has received various awards and honors too numerous to mention here. Most recently, however, she was included in a special group honored by former First Lady Laura Bush and inducted

into the University of Missouri at Kansas City's Starr Hall of Fame recognizing women who have made the Kansas City community a better place through impressive lifetime accomplishments.

In 2016, Ms. Hughes penned her autobiography entitled Mamie Who? The Life and Times of a Colored Woman, chronicling her efforts against racism and championing women's rights. For over 70 years she has fought for equal rights for all and for the improvement of Kansas City as a whole. Because of her incredible service to our community, I would like to congratulate her on celebrating her 90th birthday and thank her for making Kansas City a better, more just place for all to live.

HONORING THE 17TH INTERNATIONAL
FESTIVAL OF LANGUAGE
AND CULTURE

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2019

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the 17th International Festival of Language and Culture (IFLC).

The International Festival of Language and Culture has been bringing talented youth from around the world together to express their cultures in song, dance, and other artistic performances since 2002. The first festival was launched in Turkey, and since 2013 it has been held in countries all over the world, including Germany, Australia and Romania. The IFLC has also hosted shows in the United States since 2015, when IFLC became established in Washington, D.C. and registered as a U.S.-based nonprofit organization. The IFLC is committed to contributing to world peace and dialog by gathering young people from around the world regardless of their race, religion or language to share music and dance performances together.

This year, the IFLC will host a show and reception in Washington, D.C. on April 29, 2019 with more than 80 participants from over 16 countries performing.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring this annual celebration and showcase for diverse talent from across the world.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF
ELIAS W. "CHUCK" HADDAD

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2019

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Chuck Haddad, who passed away on Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at the age of 85. The namesake of the Haddad car dealerships in Bakersfield, California, Chuck was an esteemed local businessman and philanthropist and most importantly, a friend to many in our community including myself.

Chuck's life story is a true embodiment of the American dream. Having grown up in Lebanon, he moved to the United States to attend