

IN RECOGNITION OF PAMELA
ADAMS' LIFE AND LEGACY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pamela Adams for her lifetime of service. Mrs. Adams passed away on May 9, 2019 which greatly saddened our community. Her work to expand access to high-quality education is worthy of commendation.

A lifelong resident of Dearborn, Michigan, Pamela Adams graduated from Edsel Ford High School and attended Henry Ford Community College. After working at Ford Motor Company for a short period, Mrs. Adams began her significant work in service of education. Mrs. Adams held various positions in the Dearborn School Board, Wayne County Association of School Boards, and served on the Henry Ford College Board of Trustees for 18 years. During her tenure on the Board of Trustees, Pamela Adams contributed to several key decisions. She was instrumental in the successful 2002 bond which brought four new schools to Dearborn, and formed the award-winning Henry Ford Collegiate Academy, a program where Dearborn students can earn both a high school diploma and an associate degree in 5 years at no cost.

Pamela Adams' life stands as a role model of selfless service and demonstrates a tremendous love for her community. Beloved for her generosity and compassion, Mrs. Adams' reputation is a testament to the significant impact she had on the city of Dearborn and its residents. We are grateful for Mrs. Adams' commitment to increasing access to high-quality education. Her efforts have dramatically expanded the educational opportunities for residents of the state of Michigan and will continue to impact future students' lives.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Pamela Adams for a lifetime of service to her community. We are grateful for her dedicated work as a member of the Henry Ford College Board of Trustees, her compassion and leadership will be greatly missed.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHIEF
COLABE III

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2019

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mikko Colabe III Clem Fain Sylestine, the principal chief of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas who passed away on May 21, 2019 at 91 years old.

Chief Colabe III was born on November 4, 1927, on the Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation and is of the Granddaddy Long Legs Clan. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Austin College in Sherman, Texas in 1952. Chief Colabe III was a teacher and coach at Southmayd High School, Holland High School, Shepherd High School, Woodville ISD, and Goodrich ISD. Although he retired in 1988, Chief Colabe III touched so many lives throughout his time in education.

In addition to the passion he had for educating children, Chief Colabe III was a distin-

guished tribal leader for most of his adult life. He served as an elected Tribal Council member and then served as its chairman for many years. He assumed his chieftainship role in 1995 as the second chief and was elected as the principal chief in 2014. In serving as the principal chief, he followed in the footsteps of his father, Bronson Cooper Sylestine, who served as the chief from 1936 to 1969. Chief Colabe III was a direct descendant of Chief Colabe, who served as the second chief to Principal Chief Antone in the early 1800s. He also was an elder in the Indian Village Presbyterian Church on the Alabama-Coushatta Reservation.

As I join the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe in their period of mourning through the end of 2019, I want to recognize the impact that Chief Colabe III had on many East Texas communities. The Alabama-Coushatta Tribe is an integral part of East Texas, large in part because of Chief Colabe III's passion, leadership, and hard work for the people he cared so deeply for.

Madam Speaker, my prayers and condolences are with the family, friends, and Tribe of Chief Colabe III.

CONGRATULATING THE REPUBLIC
OF AZERBAIJAN ON ITS 101ST
REPUBLIC DAY

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2019

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Republic of Azerbaijan on its 101st Republic Day. On May 28, 1918, the Republic of Azerbaijan was formed, becoming the first democracy in the Muslim world. Unfortunately, just a few short years later, Azerbaijan was invaded by the Russian Red Army in 1920 and was subsequently occupied by the Soviet Union.

After the Soviet Union's collapse in 1991, Azerbaijan regained its independence and has been a key international partner of the United States ever since. Together, the United States and Azerbaijan continue to work as partners in combating terrorism and transnational threats. Azerbaijan has played a vital role in assisting our NATO allies and has supported U.S. operations overseas, particularly in Afghanistan.

Azerbaijan is an important ally in bolstering European energy security—therefore, it is imperative that the United States continue to support initiatives such as the Southern Gas Corridor, which routes natural gas from Azerbaijan to Europe. Azerbaijan is a key partner in securing U.S. interests in the region.

Madam Speaker, it is for these reasons that I urge all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Azerbaijan on the 101st anniversary of its Republic Day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2019

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, on Monday, June 3, 2019, I was unable to vote on roll

call no. 233. If I had been present, I would have voted NO.

MEMORIAL HONORING ST. LOUIS
POET LAUREATE SHIRLEY
LEFLORE

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2019

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American poet who, as a child, fell in love with words and turned that love of words into a life's work.

On Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12, 2019, my dear friend, Shirley Bradley Price LeFlore passed into ancestry. She was 79. Her passing gave Mother's Day "a new meaning," one daughter said in a local media report. A Celebration of Life and Homegoing Service was held on Friday, May 17 at Christ Church Cathedral, in St. Louis, Mo., where many came and paid loving homage to her life and her works. The visitation and service included numerous speakers, musicians, dancers, family, friends and fellow poets.

To her dear daughters—Hope Lindsay of Silver Springs, Md., Jacie Price of St. Louis and Lyah LeFlore-Itnen of St. Louis—the depths of my sadness at her loss moves me beyond the ties of friendship. She was like family. I pray for heavenly grace for her family: her daughters, a niece Karen Bohr and four grandchildren—Noelle Lindsay-Stewart, Jullian Price-Baez, Jordan Lindsay and Bella Grace Ituen—and all who loved and honored her.

Shirley has been interwoven into the fabric of St. Louis, Mo., this nation and the world. She has shared her love of poetry, writing and many talents with the rest of us, and we are better off because of her.

On November 9, 2018, Shirley LeFlore was named St. Louis' second Poet Laureate. She was the first African-American and woman so honored. The event was held in St. Louis City Hall, with Ms. LeFlore surrounded by family, friends and admirers.

At the time Poet Michael Castro, St. Louis' first Poet Laureate called the honor "the capstone" of a long career; a career The St. Louis Post-Dispatch noted that spanned some 50 years of "performing, mentoring and teaching." As her story was told and retold, one discovers that not only did she find poetry in everything, she lived a poetic life.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch covered the City Hall event and on November 17, published a story about her appointment. Reporter Jane Henderson noted Ms. LeFlore's life journey and how she was led by the power of words to international fame. "As a girl," Henderson wrote, "she listened to women in her mother's beauty shop as they told stories. She listened in as strangers gossiped on streetcars, when churchgoers talked and when female relatives chatted at the kitchen table. Young Shirley would make up plays about some of the people she'd overheard and started writing in grade school. As an adult, she turned talk into an art, becoming a pioneer in spoken-word poetry in St. Louis."

At City Hall, President of the Board of Aldermen Lewis Reed presented the honor to Ms. LeFlore. And Castro, who has known Ms. LeFlore since the 1970s, called her an "iconic