

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-Ituen 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

and loved figure.” He told the Post-Dispatch: “Her performances were very memorable. She had a strong presence and charisma. She read her poems kind of with a jazz beat. Her poems were not like anyone else’s, full of rich imagery.”

Madam Speaker, that career includes more than 50 years of performing, mentoring and teaching. Some call her a “wordsmith” and others call her a “word warrior,” noted Alderman Terry Kennedy, a longtime friend. He read part of her poem “Rivers of Women” noting that her writing cause people to “think differently.”

Born, Shirley Bradley Price in 1940 in St. Louis, Ms. LeFlore graduated from Sumner High School and attended Lincoln University before graduating from then Webster College and later from Washington University with a degree in psychology. Among her many achievements, she is founder of the Creative Arts and Expressions Lab, was an original member of the Black Artists Group (co-founded with her late husband, jazz musician Floyd LeFlore) and another underground activists poetry organization called Harmony.

An artist-in-residence at University City public schools, she taught at several colleges including Lindenwood University, Webster University, Harris-Stowe State University and the University of Missouri-St. Louis. As an assistant dean of students at Webster she inspired students such as “Black-ish” actress Jenifer Lewis, who credits LeFlore with having “saved my life,” the Post-Dispatch reported.

Though getting on in age, “She’s always had an intergenerational perspective,” said her daughter, Lyah LeFlore-Ituen, in the news article. “She wants to inspire young poets.”

“The fire is still there,” and as poet laureate, LeFlore can be an inspiration to young people, her daughter added.

A TV producer and writer, her daughter directed “Rivers of Women” for the Missouri History Museum. She called her mother a “living legend” and is working on a documentary about her. Also, she helped compile her mother’s 2013 book, “Brassbones & Rainbows.”

Among the greats she performed with include saxophonist Oliver Lake, trumpeter David Jackson and singer Fontella Bass. People flocked to hear her read at St. Louis’ Duffs restaurant as part of the River Styx artist series. Her mentors and influences include poet Margaret Walker, writer Gwendolyn Brooks, poet Sonia Sanchez, playwright and poet Ntozake Shange and author James Baldwin.

In New York she performed at the Nuyorican Poets Café and at Weill Hall, a part of Carnegie Hall. And her works have been presented as plays, including “Deliverance,” a production centered on HIV/AIDS.

Poet Amina Baraka has called Ms. LeFlore a “literary griot, writing and telling stories, creating lyrics we can sing and dance to.” Other honors include: the Warrior Poet Award, a board member for Word in Motion, featured in another documentary “Word Warriors III” and other anthologies.

Her activism of the 1960s led her to March on Washington and to join the Poor People’s Campaign. Politics became a part of her poetry. But it was the voices heard in her youth that set the stage for the rest of her life and career.

Last fall Poet Laureate LeFlore was featured in The St. Louis American newspaper, and later reproduced by St. Louis Public Radio.

The article noted she toured the world, playing venues both large and small, from Powell Symphony Hall in St. Louis to “quaint . . . tiny . . . churches” or a “hole in the wall” nightclub or lounge.”

“Some of the places I’ve gone, you wouldn’t want anybody to know you went there to read poetry,” Leflore said. “But if people asked me, I would go.” “If you’re serious about what you do, keep doing it, keep studying it, keep mastering it and let it live inside you.” And “Listen—especially when you first start out. You need to listen.” It was her listening—her eavesdropping on her mother’s beauty salon clients—that caught her ear and helped shaped her poetry in the years to come.

“They thought I was sitting around playing jacks, but I would be listening,” to the way they talked, what they said, LeFlore told the American. Later, she would go home and write in her black and white composition book, noting that often the way they said things was more striking than what they said. Over time she would note that black people have a “special way with language—in every part of the world—but especially in St. Louis.”

Of her funeral on May 17, 2019, the American reported the near-capacity homegoing service for “Saint Shirley” at Christ Church Cathedral “stretched nearly four hours.” Accolades and memories were offered from speakers from far and near, among them poets, actors, writers and politicians. Actor and writer Kevin Powell called her a “supernatural word warrior” created from “black girl magic.”

Poet Laureate of East St. Louis Eugene Redmond said LeFlore ranked among the great jazz poets for her ability to turn musical form and history into “the cross-fertilization” of literary musical forms and techniques, he said. “She eloped with language and stayed married to music all her days.”

And while people of faith offered words of tribute, LeFlore’s own poems, spoken by the living meant LeFlore “essentially eulogized herself,” the American’s Kenya Vaughn wrote.

Daughter Hope Price-Lindsay said she grew up wanting a mother more like television’s “Leave it to Beaver’s” June Cleaver but instead got Ms. LeFlore, an Afrocentric artist who remained true to her craft, whether life served her “caviar and champagne” or “bone soup.” We learned that LeFlore inherited her poetry from her mother, who inherited it from her mother, who inherited from her mother.

Retired 18th Ward Alderman Terry Kennedy spoke again at her funeral, having grown up with Ms. LeFlore and calling her “a mighty spirit amongst us” who was “small in stature, big at heart.” He comforted guests with Ms. LeFlore’s own words from her poem, “Breathprints.”

“Light a candle for me,” he recited. “Say a prayer. Whisper me into the wind. Lay a love wreath on the altar of your heart and remember my good days amongst you. Weep if you must. It’s good to unburden your tears, but make brief your grief.

“Let the joy of my laughter comfort you,” Kennedy continued in her words. “My spirit will be the music above your head, my love like the wind beneath your wings to lift you in your weary years so that you may see the sunrise. All is well with my soul.”

Madam Speaker, today I give to Congress and the people of America, a glimpse into the life and times of a world-renown and respected poet from St. Louis, Missouri, and her

vision for seeing, touching, feeling the world around us—St. Louis Poet Laureate Shirley LeFlore.

I urge members of Congress to join me in honoring the life and career of St. Louis Poet Laureate Ms. Shirley LeFlore and her art of language and her expression in words, of our life and times. May she rest in peace.

IN RECOGNITION OF CRESTVIEW
HIGH SCHOOL KNIGHTS ON
THEIR 2019 OHSAA BOYS STATE
BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2019

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to recognize the Crestview High School Knights of Convoy, Ohio on their victory in the 2019 OHSAA boys state basketball tournament. This was their second championship in five years.

The Crestview Knights completed a historic season with an unexpected win. After a challenging semifinal, the Crestview Knights were considered the underdogs, heading into the championship ranked below their opponent, Berlin Hiland. In the end, they dominated with a 58–38 win, holding Berlin Hiland to 21 points below its season average.

The community of Convoy should be very proud of this team’s hard work and dedication. Congratulations to Coach Best and the Knights on their state title.

IN RECOGNITION OF OZONE HOUSE
FOR 50 YEARS OF DEDICATED
SERVICE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2019

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ozone House for their exemplary work assisting homeless youth in the state of Michigan. For 50 years, they have provided comprehensive support services for some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

Founded in 1969, Ozone House is a community-based, non-profit agency that provides support services to youth in crisis and their families in Washtenaw County, Michigan. They offer high-quality housing and aid programs designed to assist runaway, homeless, and high-risk youth in the community. Through Ozone House’s programs, these individuals develop essential life skills, improve their interpersonal relationships, and enhance their self-image in order to lead productive, happy lives. Ozone House’s critical efforts have solidified its role as a model of effective care across the nation.

Ozone House’s continued work has been vital to addressing the needs of vulnerable youth in the Washtenaw community, and has received several awards for their dedication. Beyond the need for food and shelter, homeless youth are at greater risk of being victims of human trafficking and assault. Ozone House’s intensive intervention and preventive